

NOTICE OF MEETING

MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2010
TIME:	9.00 am
VENUE:	BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL
CONTACT:	Alex Daynes <i>Telephone: 01733 452447</i> <i>e-mail address alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk</i>
<i>Despatch date:</i>	<i>21 September 2010</i>

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*Any agenda item highlighted in bold and marked with an * is a 'key decision' involving the Council making expenditure or savings of over £500,000 or having a significant effect on two or more wards in Peterborough. These items have been advertised previously on the Council's Forward Plan (except where the issue is urgent in accordance with Section 15 of the Council's Access to Information rules).*



There is an induction hearing loop system available in all meeting rooms. Some of the systems are infra-red operated, if you wish to use this system then please contact Alex Daynes on 01733 452447.

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 14 JUNE 2010

PRESENT

Cabinet Members:

Councillors Lee (Vice-Chairman), Eley, Hiller, Holdich, Scott, Seaton and Walsh

Cabinet Advisers:

Councillor Benton

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Cereste, Councillor Dalton and Councillor Lamb.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

3. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting - 22 March and 29 March 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2010 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

4. Traffic Mitigation at Maskew Avenue

Councillor Lowndes, as Chairman of the Central and North Neighbourhood Council, introduced the report in order to highlight the concerns of local residents and Councillors expressed at a recent Neighbourhood Council meeting concerning traffic congestion and to request that Cabinet considers liaising with retailers to implement measures to alleviate the persistent traffic problems currently experienced along Maskew Avenue, Bourges Boulevard and into New England.

Cabinet was advised that officers were in communication with the owners of the retail land and a meeting had been arranged with the Highways Team in which the views of Cabinet could be passed on. In response to a question, Cabinet was further advised that relevant traffic modelling and analysis had been carried out when the original plans for the works were drawn up.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Liaise with local retailers to alleviate traffic congestion around the Maskew Avenue Retail Park with emphasis on completing the works by the end of this year.

REASONS

To improve traffic access to and from the road network around Maskew Avenue Retail Park.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Do not liaise with retailers to request commencement of works to the parking area – this could result in works being left unstarted for a longer period of time with no start or end date for works. This would result in continued congestion for road users, hazards for emergency vehicle access and residents trying to access local services.

5. Peterborough Local Development Framework - The Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document*

This report was submitted to Cabinet: (a) following approval of the Council's Local Development Scheme by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; (b) in accordance with the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) 2005; and (c) following approval by Cabinet of a consultation draft Hospital Site SPD on 29 March 2010.

Following the consultation period, the following aspects had been added to the draft version of the report previously approved:

- Additional references to historic assets (listed buildings etc) incorporated to the text, further ensuring they are carefully considered as part of detailed planning application process;
- New reference added to the SPD for the need for a single wider Nature / Biodiversity / Open Space / Green Infrastructure Strategy as part of a future planning application;
- Additional reference to the need for future detailed development proposals to consider particularly carefully the issue of parking, both on site and off site. Parking was an issue frequently raised during the consultation exercise, probably reflecting the high level of on-street parking which currently exists in the neighbouring area;
- Reference added to the need to consider the RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Toolkit Assessment.

Cabinet was advised that it was hoped a planning application would be submitted for the site as early as next year.

The Policy and Strategy Manager advised Cabinet that traffic from the site was not considered to cause any problems and that the site would serve as an adequate gateway to the city centre with the retention of mature trees and most of the historic buildings.

CABINET **RESOLVED** TO:

Adopt the Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document as formal planning policy as part of its Local Development Framework.

CABINET FURTHER **RESOLVED** TO:

Include additional wording in section 6 (Application Stage) of the planning document to address concerns over construction traffic as detailed below:

Construction Management Plan - As part of a detailed planning application for the Hospital Site, a Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. This shall include amongst other matters:

- a noise management plan including a scheme for the monitoring of construction noise;
- a scheme for the control of dust arising from building and site works;

- a scheme of chassis and wheel cleaning for construction vehicles including contingency measures should these facilities become in-operative and a scheme for the cleaning of affected public highways;
- a scheme of working hours for construction and other site works;
- a scheme for construction access from Thorpe Road, and other neighbouring roads if applicable, including measures to ensure that all construction vehicles can enter the site immediately upon arrival, adequate space within the site to enable vehicles to load and unload clear of the public highway and details of any haul routes across the site;
- a scheme for parking of contractors vehicles;
- a scheme for access and deliveries including hours.

REASONS

All statutory regulations regarding consultation had been completed and representations received taken into account. Having an adopted SPD for the Hospital Site was beneficial to the Council because it had a clear benchmark to assess any future development proposals for the site and was beneficial to developers because they had a clear understanding as to what the Council expected on the site. This minimised risk on all parties and would enable a timelier redevelopment of the site than would be the case without such adopted policy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Various development options for the site had been considered and had been tested for the viability of each. The development proposed in the document was, in simple terms, considered to be the 'preferred option', and there were no overriding reasons given during the public consultation period to warrant an alternative solution to be investigated.

6. Rural Housing Strategy 2010-2013*

Cabinet received the report outlining the scope, purpose and objectives of the Peterborough Rural Housing Strategy. The strategy represented a joint response from Peterborough City Council (PCC) and the Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) to rural housing issues as identified in the GPP's Rural Vision and Strategy.

Cabinet was advised that the Rural Housing Strategy sought to empower rural communities to address rural housing issues for themselves. The strategy document focused upon the three priorities:

- Affordable Housing;
- Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty; and
- In-keeping design.

In response to a question, the Housing Strategy & Enabling Officer advised members that the document would be reviewed after 3 years to allow it to be updated and amended as necessary to remain relevant and useful.

Overall, Cabinet was supportive of the document and requested that an update on its progress be submitted to a Cabinet Policy Forum in six months time.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

Adopt the Rural Housing Strategy as a supporting document to the Peterborough Housing Strategy.

REASONS

The Rural Housing Strategy represented a joint response between PCC and the GPP to address rural housing issues identified in the GPP's Rural Vision and Strategy; lower levels of affordable housing, energy efficiency, fuel poverty and in-keeping design. The Rural Housing Strategy set out measures that sought to enable rural communities to address rural housing-related issues for themselves, with the assistance of both PCC and the GPP. The focus on empowering rural communities was essential in order to address many of the priority areas of the Rural Housing Strategy. The Rural Housing Strategy set out measures to connect rural communities with the agencies and services that would enable them to address issues, such as a lack of affordable housing for local people, for themselves.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The only alternative was not to prepare a Rural Housing Strategy and instead rely on the GPP Rural Strategy and Vision and existing wider Housing Strategy to deliver these aims. However, it was felt that it would be more appropriate to produce a document which had a separate focus for specific rural housing issues.

7. Outcome of Petitions

Cabinet received a report updating it on the progress being made in response to petitions received at Full Council in accordance with Paragraph 13 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

The clerk read out a statement from Councillor Sandford advising Cabinet of local support in opposing proposals to provide allotments on parkland in Gunthorpe and at Werrington Paddocks as contained in the petitions in sections 4.3 and 4.4 respectively of the report.

Councillor Holdich advised members that the issues in the petition concerning the playing field at Norwood School had been resolved with the public.

Councillor Lee advised members that the issues in the petition concerning the Dell Park had also been resolved.

Councillor Seaton requested that officers keep ward councillors updated concerning developments over traffic and noise pollution as contained in the petition at paragraph 4.6 of the report.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

Note the actions taken in respect of petitions presented to Full Council.

REASONS

The Council's Rules of Procedure require that Council receive a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petitions presented in this report had been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers it was appropriate that the action taken was reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Any alternative option would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Cabinet.

CHAIRMAN
10.00 am - 11.00 am

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital	
Contact Officer(s):	Paul Phillipson Executive Director of Operations	Tel. 453455

CITY COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: UPDATE OF STRATEGY TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	Deadline date :
That the Cabinet is recommended to:	
(i) endorse the Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council as part of the major policy framework; and	
(ii) consider the requirement for additional resources during the development of the Council Budgets alongside other budget pressures.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee Meeting of the 15th of July 2010.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the City Councils updated Biodiversity Strategy for the Cabinet to consider and if considered appropriate to refer it to Full Council for consideration as part of the major policy framework.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1, To take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	Yes	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	29 September 2010
Date for relevant Council meeting	13 October 2010	Date for submission to Government Dept <i>(please specify which Government Dept)</i>	N/A

4. PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCILS BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

4.1 The existing City Council Biodiversity Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in October 2004. The Vision Statement which forms part of the Strategy was subsequently considered and adopted by full Council at its November 2004 meeting where the following decision was made to:

“Adopt the Biodiversity vision statement as a guidance and reference document to officers and the executive when making decisions on biodiversity ensuring that the vision, objectives and targets are used in a flexible manner, within existing resources and subject to planning considerations”.

- 4.2 The proposed update of the Strategy has been produced by a working group of Officers and Councillors and is submitted to Cabinet following consideration by the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee. The working group was convened following a report to the then Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel in January 2008 with respect to the new biodiversity duty brought in by S40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of Conserving biodiversity”

S40 of the Act also clarifies that Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.

An updated strategy and the wording of its adoption must be consistent with this legal duty.

- 4.3 The January 2008 report to the Scrutiny Panel concluded that the 2004 Strategy and the wording of its adoption by Council did not adequately reflect the requirements of the new Biodiversity Duty. The Scrutiny Panel endorsed the intent to update the Strategy to take into account the new biodiversity duty.
- 4.4 The key issues within the updated strategy include changes to land management practices, the ability of the Council to maintain existing resourcing and in some instances make other resources available. In many cases additional resources can be used to access external funding for restoration and creation of habitats. However routine management would generally have to be met by the Council’s own resources. The proposed update of the strategy consists of two elements which are included at appendices A and B.

Vision Statement

- 4.5 The working group has developed an updated vision of what the Council’s approach to Biodiversity should be. This replaces the vision statement from the original strategy and can be found in full at Appendix A.

Specific Actions to Achieve the Vision and Approach to Biodiversity

- 4.6 It is intended that opportunities will be exploited as they arise, however some specific actions and possible methods of delivery have been identified under the headings used in the vision statement. This replaces the key actions component of the original strategy and can be found in full at Appendix B.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the officers, groups and organisations which were consulted with respect to the original Biodiversity Strategy. Additional relevant organisations that have become known in the Peterborough area in the intervening time have also been included. Consultation has been undertaken with:

- British Trust for Conservation Volunteering (BTCV);
- Buglife;
- Consultation has also been undertaken with the Council’s Finance as well as Legal and Democratic Services;
- Council Officers within the update working group and Biodiversity Officer Working Group. This includes, Bereavement, Recreation, City and Education Services, tree and woodland team, Natural Environment Team. Landscape Architect, Transportation;

- Councillor representatives within the Working Group;
- Forestry Commission;
- Froglife;
- Natural England;
- Parish Councils;
- PECT;
- Peterborough Bird Club;
- Peterborough Conservation Volunteers;
- Peterborough Friends of the Earth;
- Planning Policy team;
- RSPB;
- The Landyke Trust;
- The Wildlife Trust;
- Woodland Trust;
- Greater Peterborough Partnership; and
- Opportunity Peterborough.

5.2 A table showing the results of the external consultation process and how this shaped the content of the strategy can be found at Appendix D.

5.3 Cllr Sandford as a member of the working group updating the strategy has indicated agreement with all the recommendations in the report with the exception of Appendix B, point 21 (pesticides). Cllr Sandford has indicated that this should go further to require a commitment to reducing usage of herbicide progressively over time, and felt that a commitment to review usage is not useful if it does not state any intention to do anything as a result. Cllr Sandford has indicated that previously there was a commitment to reduce herbicide usage in the Council's Environmental Strategy and for example organisations signing up to Forest Stewardship Council certification on sustainable tree/woodland management are required to make such a commitment.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

That Council adopts the Biodiversity Strategy as Part of the Major Policy Framework.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To update the City Councils Biodiversity Strategy to take account of the Biodiversity Duty introduced by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act S40 and Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Guidance to Local Authorities with respect to this Duty.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To retain the City Council's 2004 Biodiversity Strategy. This was rejected as it does not adequately reflect legislative requirements that have come into force since its adoption.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The incorporation of biodiversity into many of the Council's functions and services can be achieved within existing resources, providing that this is maintained. This is supported by the experience of the implementation of the 2004 Strategy.

9.2 However, the updating of the Strategy has identified that some additional resources would be required in order to comply with the legal duty the City Council now has with respect to Biodiversity. These are outlined in detail in Appendix C of this report. In some cases additional resource requirements can also be offset by seeking external funding, for example for restoration of degraded habitats. However, routine management could not generally be funded in this way. The net cost of management of the Boardwalks Local

Nature Reserve may also be less than outlined in Appendix C as this would be offset by the management costs currently incurred by Peterborough City Services.

- 9.3 This report has implications throughout the authority area where the Council is a Landowner or Manager.
- 9.4 The updated Strategy is directly linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and LAA via National Indicator 197 County Wildlife Sites and associated targets. It is more generally linked to the SCS and National Indicators via the Cleaner Greener sections of these documents.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40).
- Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty, Defra, May 2007.
- Peterborough City Council Approach to Biodiversity submitted to the Cabinet on 11 October 2004.
- Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy (including Rural Vision Strategy and Environment Capital manifesto).

VISION STATEMENT

The working group has developed the following updated vision of what the Council's approach to Biodiversity should be:

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL AND BIODIVERSITY

a) **Our vision**

- i) The Peterborough area has a rich mix of habitats including woodland, parkland, rivers, and alluvial and limestone grassland. Peterborough's Natural Environment Audit identifies approximately 10% of the district is of at least county significance for its wildlife and 2% of the area as of national importance. This includes 3 sites which are also of international importance. Peterborough City Council wants to see its district remain rich in wildlife, with existing habitats of value safeguarded for future generations and new features for wildlife created wherever possible.
- ii) Peterborough City Council is committed to the Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. It recognises that biodiversity is a key part of the LAA, Community Strategy and its component parts such as the Rural Vision Strategy and Environment Capital manifesto.
- iii) The City Council recognises that Biodiversity and the Natural Environment enhance wellbeing and quality of life by enhancing the places in which we live, work and play. It can give economic benefits through tourism and the production of quality local produce. Natural habitats can absorb floods, help treat pollutants and act as windbreaks. There are also cultural and aesthetic aspects to Biodiversity, for example through the writings of John Clare.
- iv) The City Council recognises that Biodiversity – or more simply the wealth of wildlife is a truly cross-cutting theme. The City Council will, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity¹. As such it will be included in all Council strategies, plans, programmes and practices.
- v) The City Council recognises that biodiversity is under threat from habitat and population fragmentation, climate change, invasive alien species as well as development and land pressures. The City Council will play its part in countering these threats, working to protect and enhance, sites, habitats and species of biodiversity importance, including the protection and provision of a network of wildlife corridors to establish physical links between sites and populations of known wildlife interest.
- vi) The City Council will work with partners to achieve a net gain in Biodiversity in the district by protecting these key habitats, species, and habitat networks; mitigating against potentially damaging impacts; seeking compensation where damage is unavoidable; and enhancing existing or creating new habitats of value wherever possible.

b) **Our approach**

To achieve this vision for Biodiversity the City Council adopts the following broad approach, in that it will take reasonable steps which are consistent with the proper exercise of the authorities functions to:

- i) **Awareness raising:** Make every attempt to ensure that employees and members of Peterborough City Council are aware of the importance of and need to

¹ As required by section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

safeguard, enhance and promote Biodiversity through the City Council's activities and thereby contribute to the achievement of this approach.

- ii) **Habitat networks and Climate Change:** Work with the Peterborough Natural Networks partnership and contribute to the achievement of the green grid strategy to form a coherent and less fragmented green infrastructure network of habitats across the authority area²; which will be robust to the effects of and facilitate adaptation to climate change by species and habitats.
- iii) **Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Take reasonable steps consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions,** to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and International Sites³.
- iv) **County Wildlife Sites:** Work with the Wildlife Trust and Local Sites partnership to further the conservation and enhancement of Local Wildlife Sites. Also to ensure that up-to-date information is available for all local wildlife sites in Peterborough and work with partners to deliver the targets of the Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy with respect to Local Wildlife Sites.
- v) **Non native invasive species:** Take action to deal with invasive non native species where these are present on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.
- vi) **The Planning system:** Ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced within the planning system within Peterborough and deliver the key principles for biodiversity set out in national planning guidance. Where full protection is not possible mitigation and compensatory measures should be put in place.
- vii) **Green Spaces:** Increase and diversify wildlife interest in all green places and open spaces; and provide access to sites of wildlife interest for all sections of the community, including the disabled and disadvantaged. Also to promote accessibility to wildlife by creating these new habitats in public areas and encourage their creation in private areas such as, schools, factories, offices.
- viii) **Wider understanding:** Promote wider understanding and enjoyment of Peterborough's wildlife through formal and informal education and interpretation, and events such as Peterborough's annual Green Festival.
- ix) **Involvement:** Promote active interest and involvement in wildlife issues at the local, national and international levels by all sections of the community at home, in the workplace, as a leisure activity and as part of the local economy.
- x) **Local wildlife groups:** Assist local voluntary wildlife groups in their aims of protecting wildlife and promoting interest in conservation.
- xi) **Biodiversity Action Plan targets:** Contribute to the achievement of the Biodiversity Action Plan Targets relevant to the authorities functions and area⁴. To continue to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership.
- xii) **Biodiversity Data:** Ensure that up to date biodiversity data is available and used appropriately to support this approach.

Actions to achieve this vision and broad approach are described in more detail in appendix B.

² As required by Regulation 39 of the Habitats Regulations 2010.

³ As required by Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

⁴ www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/natureconservation/action/partnership

SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE VISION AND APPROACH OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A

It is intended that opportunities will be exploited as they arise, however the following specific actions and possible methods of delivery have been identified under the headings used in the approach and also the vision and approach more generally.

	Specific action	Possible methods of delivery, consideration and comments
Awareness Raising		
1	<p>All City Council and contract staff directly involved in the management of open space should be given training and guidance on good management practice to safeguard and promote Biodiversity.</p> <p>This should include the identification of 'model' sites to demonstrate best practice.</p>	<p>Opportunities for internal and external training and guidance to be regularly brought to the attention of and where appropriate taken up by employees and members. Internal training to be requested from the councils own internal specialists where required.</p>
Habitat Networks and Climate Change		
2	<p>Where PCC owned or managed land forms part of a wildlife corridor its management will aim to facilitate its role as a part of the ecological network it is part of.</p>	<p>An analysis of habitat networks and gaps within them has identified that road verges are the main area where the City Council can directly contribute to increasing the connectivity of habitat networks. A number of specific examples have been identified for further investigation/progression.</p>
Sites of Special Scientific Interest		
3	<p>Secure funding for enhancement works and SSSI specific management for the PCC owned part of the Orton Pit SSSI.</p>	<p>This is the only PCC owned SSSI and consists of part of the treebelt which runs along the southern edge of the Fletton Parkway. Woodland grant scheme could be sought to cover a significant proportion of SSSI specific works within the Treebelt.</p> <p>Other opportunities to assist Natural England with the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs should also be supported. This may for example include efforts to create habitat links to connect SSSIs within the wider landscape as outlined under specific action 2 above.</p>
4	<p>Continue to work with Natural England in their role as statutory adviser in planning and development matters pertaining to SSSIs and International sites.</p>	<p>Continue dialogue at the strategic planning level as well as with respect to specific development proposals.</p> <p>Contributes to item 3 of the approach outlined as part of the vision statement.</p>

	Specific action	Possible methods of delivery, consideration and comments
County Wildlife Sites		
5	<p>All PCC County Wildlife Sites to be positively managed to conserve and where possible enhance the site for the criteria for which they are designated CWS.</p>	<p>Re-survey of all wildlife sites in the Peterborough area is in part covered under a service level agreement between the Wildlife Trust and the City Council.</p> <p>PCC are responsible for 12 out of 107 wildlife sites:</p> <p>Eye Green gravel pit The Boardwalks Debdale pond Broadway Cemetery Eastfield Cemetery Pocock's Wood Grimeshaw Wood, Highlees Spinney, Spencer's Hurn & Water Spinney Holywell Fish Ponds Southey Lodge verge (Langley Bush Road). Stamford Rd./Heath Rd./ Ailsworth Rd./King St. verges (Includes "Marholm road" west of King Street Crossroad) Barnack road verges Bedford Purlieus-Wittering road verge</p> <p>One site is due to be added, this is 1400m of road verge at the south end of Highfield road.</p> <p>A number of possible actions have been identified which might be required to continue the positive management of these sites. This includes the drawing in of external funding for the restoration of woodland and minor amendments to mowing regimes for road verges.</p>
Non native invasive species		
6	<p>Employ best practice procedures to deal with invasive non native species on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.</p> <p>Otherwise the occurrence of invasive non native weed</p>	<p>Invasive species which are problematic in the Peterborough area and on sites managed by the authority include:</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed Giant Hogweed Orange Balsam</p>

	Specific action	Possible methods of delivery, consideration and comments
	species should be reported by PCC officers where this is observed as a result of carrying out their normal duties.	<p>The authority should also be on its guard against other problem species such as:</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam New Zealand pygmyweed Parrots feather</p> <p>Training in the recognition of these species should be organised for non specialist employees/contractors as required.</p> <p>One nature reserve currently has a problem with Japanese Knotweed although treatment of this has recently commenced.</p>
The Planning System		
7	Planning related departments of the City Council to continue to work with internal advisers, conservation bodies and local groups with respect to the production of a Local Development Framework and also specific development proposals.	Training as outlined in respect of specific action 1 in this table is also relevant in this respect.
Green Spaces		
8	In the short-term reasonably significant areas should be identified for trialling new approaches to landscape management.	<p>The area chosen should be large enough to contain a variety of types of landscape (e.g. parks, playing fields, kick about areas, open space in housing areas, etc). The trial should involve consultation with local residents and relevant departments within the City Council in planning the management of such areas, and offer a range of different options for particular sites within the trial area and the habitats they possess.</p> <p>Where appropriate this could be through the use of set conservation management specifications or where it would be beneficial the production of management plans for these spaces such as already demonstrated for Central Park. The possibility of reduction in management costs should be acknowledged as a possibility via this change in management¹. The possibility of the creation of new purpose designed sites and habitats for wildlife and people should not be ruled out nor should the potential role of the PCC Agricultural Estate.</p>

¹ Such as identified in the Urban Forestry Report “Trees or Turf? Best value in managing urban green space”.

	Specific action	Possible methods of delivery, consideration and comments
		<p>scheme.</p> <p>PCC support of projects such as Nature in Your Neighbourhood and any successor projects such as Access to Nature would be relevant in this respect.</p>
13	Recognise the role of allotments and cemeteries in promoting Biodiversity.	<p>For example:</p> <p>Opportunities should be taken where there is local support for the utilisation of disused allotments and closed cemeteries for promoting wildlife habitats.</p> <p>Allotments and cemeteries that are in use have a part to play with respect to Biodiversity. This is not intended to be in conflict with their operating requirements.</p> <p>Initiatives such as biodiversity guidance for allotment holders should continue.</p>
Wider understanding		
14	Support initiatives to encourage wildlife friendly gardening, recognising the increasing amount of land devoted to this usage.	For example via Peterborough in Bloom.
Involvement and Local Wildlife Groups		
15	With partners investigate the re-instatement of a Peterborough Wildlife Group or Wildlife forum.	<p>At a recent urban wildlife meeting with local wildlife groups; support was voiced for the possibility of bringing back the Urban Wildlife Group for Peterborough.</p> <p>Also see action above under broad approach 8 of the Vision statement, to give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.</p>
Biodiversity Action Plan Targets		
16	Establish measurable annual targets for the creation of new areas of wildlife interest.	Including tree/shrub planting and woodland creation – both through the City Council's own land management and its role as a planning authority.

	Specific action	Possible methods of delivery, consideration and comments
		The Natural Networks partnership is investigating how the targets from the Green Grid Strategy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan and Peterborough Environment Audit can be brought together as one set of targets for Peterborough. If this were achieved it may be possible to further extract a set of targets for the City Council.
Biodiversity Data		
17	Continue to support the Biological Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	A biological records centre is essential to enable effective and efficient management of biological and ecological data about Peterborough, but would be financially unsustainable if developed just for the Peterborough area. This data is a pre-requisite to the planning, implementation and monitoring of Biodiversity gain, as well as the achievement of more sustainable patterns of development. Effective management of biological data is also essential to the monitoring of the success or otherwise of the targets set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan.
Overall Contribution to the Vision Statement and Approach		
18	Give particular emphasis to the protection of ancient, and semi-natural habitats through all the City Council's activities.	For example ancient woodland and veteran trees.
19	Investigate and exploit external funding opportunities for creating and enhancing the Biodiversity value of City Council managed land. For example from Forestry Commission, Natural England, landfill tax or aggregates levy.	While much can be achieved by the City Council, this should be viewed as essential to achieving many of the actions listed above.
20	Continue to review the use of pesticides (including fungicides and herbicides) in the City Council's land management.	Such that their use is consistent, minimised and very carefully targeted in line with COSHH regulations requirements.

EXTRAPOLATION OF SPECIFIC TASKS AND THEIR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN COMPLYING WITH THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY THROUGH THE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY, ITS VISION STATEMENT, APPROACH AND SPECIFIC ACTIONS

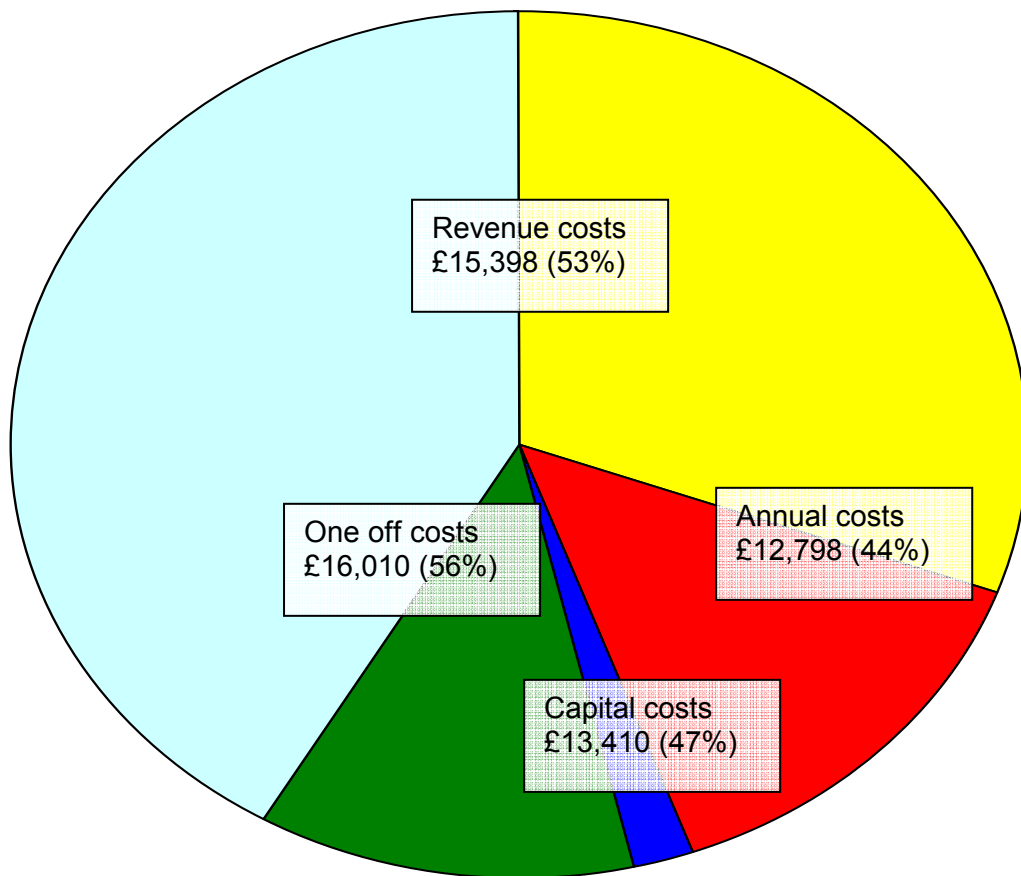
1. Summary

Overall achieving the elements set out in the updated biodiversity strategy will require the City Council to continue to resource its current efforts and in some instances change management practices. This will have financial implications which are considered in detail below. In many instances the cost of restoring or creating habitats can be off set by seeking external funding or other changes to management practices which are less expensive than existing.

Overall the assessment carried out below has identified that the following additional funding would be required:

Element	Annual Costs (Revenue)	Single/One off Costs		Responsible
		Revenue	Capital	
Changes in Management Practices to road verges to enhance County Wildlife Sites, reflect designation of new sites and create habitat links	£8798	N/A	N/A	Highways/ Peterborough City Services
Secure management of the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve by a body such as the Wildlife Trust, Froglife or Nene Park Trust. *This may be offset by the current cost incurred by PCS for day to day management of the Boardwalks.	£4000*	N/A	N/A	Peterborough City Services
Chemical Treatment of Japanese Knotweed at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve	N/A	£600	N/A	Peterborough City Services
Match funding to make 3 bids for up to £98,000 of external funding. This is for works to Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	N/A	£2000	£10,000	Peterborough City Services
Signage for County Wildlife Site Road Verges including new sites and extensions	N/A	N/A	£3410	Highways/ Peterborough City Services
Totals	£12,798	£2,600	£13,410	£28,808

Distribution of additional costs



- Changes in Management Practices to road verges to enhance County Wildlife Sites and create habitat links. £8,798

- Secure management of the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve by a body Such as the Wildlife Trust, Froglife or Nene Park Trust. £4000

- Chemical Treatment of Japanese Knotweed at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve. £600

- Signage for County Wildlife Site Road Verges and extensions £3410


- Match funding to make 3 bids for up to £98,000 of external funding. This is for works to Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. £12,000


An overall failure to implement the Strategy would entail non compliance with Biodiversity Duty, failure to be worthy of Environment City status or to be able to present Peterborough as the UKs environment capital. Associated negative effects to quality of life and the economy and cultural heritage should also be expected as should a more limited contribution to flood and pollution control.

2. Detailed breakdown of specific actions and financial implications

A detailed breakdown of specific actions and their financial implications is detailed in the table below. Elements already present in the 2004 Strategy have been included for completeness but are left unshaded. The 2004 strategy by the way in which it was adopted was to be achieved within existing resources. Progress reports with respect to achieving the requirements of the 2004 strategy have been made to Councillors since its adoption. Where satisfactory progress is already being made within existing resources this has been used as a basis to demonstrate that this is a valid financial consideration in respect of the inclusion of these actions in this updated 2010 strategy. The table is otherwise colour coded blue to show what actions are new to the Strategy but which are already being achieved within existing resources and green to show where new actions are proposed and additional resourcing would be required.

 Elements which were already present within the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy and which therefore are already being achieved within existing resources.

 New elements which were not already present within the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy but which are already being achieved within existing resources or where no resource change would be required.

 New elements which were not already present within the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy where a resource change would be required.

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
1	<p>Make every attempt to ensure that employees and members of Peterborough City Council are aware of the importance of and need to safeguard, enhance and promote Biodiversity through the City Council's activities and thereby contribute to the achievement of this approach.</p>	<p>All City Council and contract staff directly involved in the management of open space should be given training and guidance on good management practice to safeguard and promote Biodiversity.</p> <p>This should include the identification of 'model' sites to demonstrate best practice.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Opportunities for internal and external training and guidance to be regularly brought to the attention of and where appropriate taken up by employees and members. Internal training to be requested from the councils own internal specialists where required.</p>	<p>Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Internal training can be provided within existing resources providing that these are maintained.</p> <p>Guidance is routinely available electronically at no cost.</p> <p>External training has been provided in the past through the City Councils existing partnerships with other organisations at little additional cost to its current commitments.</p> <p>Other external training would need to be subject to the normal</p>	<p>Fundamental to achieving implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy, Vision statement and biodiversity duty.</p>	<p>Natural Environment Team/All</p>

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
				process of requesting training and the consideration of this by the Corporate Management Team.		
2	Work with the Peterborough Natural Networks partnership and contribute to the achievement of a coherent and less fragmented network of habitats across the authority area; which will be robust to the effects of and facilitate adaptation to climate change by species and habitats.	Where PCC owned or managed land forms part of a wildlife corridor its management will aim to facilitate its role as a part of the ecological network it is part of.	<p>Site and works required (Habitat Networks)</p> <p>Extension to management employed on Southey Lodge Road Verge County Wildlife Site to link this with Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI and grassland at Upton which would form the PCC part of a possible link to Castor Hanglands SSSI.</p> <p>Change in management of road verge of Main Street south of Southorpe to replicate that employed on road verge CWS. This would link a number of grasslands to Sutton Heath and Bog SSSI and contribute to a much improved link with Sutton Meadows North CWS</p>	<p>Financial implication</p> <p>Management of 7000 m of road verge in line with that used for a CWS road verges (with additional cut at beginning of year) is estimated to cost £2604 PA.</p> <p>Signage for verge £260.</p> <p>Change in Management of 6000 m of road verge in line with that used for a CWS road verges (with additional cut at beginning of year) is estimated to cost £2232 PA.</p>	Threat to delivery of a habitat network which will be resistant to climate change.	<p>Highways/ Peterborough City Services</p> <p>Highways/ Peterborough City Services</p>

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
			and Sutton Disused Railway CWS.	Signage for verge: £176		
			Extension to management employed on Bedford Purlieus/Wittering Road Verge County Wildlife Site to link this with Wittering Valley CWS.	Change in Management of 2000 m road verge in line with that used for a CWS road verges (with additional cut at beginning of year) is estimated to cost £744 PA.		Highways/ Peterborough City Services
			Extension to management employed on Stamford etc Road Verge County Wildlife Site to the north to link this with Ring and Bailey Meadow CWS as well as the east coast mainline and therefore Marholm Crossing CWS and Bainton Pits CWS.	Change in Management of 3400 m of road verge in line with that used for a CWS road verges (with additional cut at beginning of year) is estimated to cost £1265 PA. Signage for verge: £304		Highways/ Peterborough City Services
			Extension to management employed on Stamford etc road verge County Wildlife Site to the south to link this with Ailsworth Marsh and	Change in Management of 2100 m of road verge in line with that used for a CWS road verges		Highways/ Peterborough City Services

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
			Green Lane CWS and the PCC part of a possible link to Ailsworth Meadow South.	(with additional cut at beginning of year) is estimated to cost £782 PA.		
3	Work with Natural England to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	Secure funding for enhancement works and SSSI specific management for the PCC owned part of the Orton Pit SSSI.	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest</p> <p>This is the only PCC owned SSSI and consists of part of the treebelt which runs along the southern edge of the Fletton Parkway. Woodland grant scheme could be sought to cover a significant proportion of SSSI specific works within the Treebelt.</p> <p>Other opportunities to assist Natural England with the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs should also be supported. This may for example include efforts to create habitat links to connect SSSIs within the wider landscape as outlined under specific action 3 above.</p>	<p>This is estimated to be likely to cost up to £10,000, however up to 80% of the cost of works could be sought through a woodland grant from the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>This is none the less a statutory requirement of the authority under S28 G of the Wildlife and Countryside act.</p>	Failure to comply with the authorities legal duty with respect to SSSIs.	Tree and Woodland Team/ Peterborough City Services

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	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
		Continue to work with Natural England as their role as statutory adviser in planning and development matters pertaining to SSSIs.	Such as strategic planning which may affect SSSIs as well as specific development proposals.	This is an existing duty in the planning system and can continue to be delivered providing that existing resources are maintained.	Failure to comply with the authorities legal duty with respect to SSSIs, national, regional and local planning policy.	Planning Department and Planning Policy
4	Work with the Wildlife Trust and Local Sites partnership to further the conservation and enhancement of Local Wildlife Sites. Also to ensure that up-to-date information is available for all local wildlife sites in Peterborough and work with partners to deliver the targets of the Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy with respect to Local Wildlife Sites.	See below.	Survey of County Wildlife Sites Re-survey of all wildlife sites in the Peterborough area is in part covered under a service level agreement between the Wildlife Trust and the City Council.	The achievement of the approach is currently being achieved within existing resources (£4600 PA). This can continue providing that this resourcing is maintained.	Failure to achieve LAA target in respect of CWS.	Natural Environment Team /Planning Policy
5	Contributes to Local Sites part of the approach outlined	All PCC County Wildlife Sites to be positive	County Wildlife Site and works required	Financial implication	Failure to deliver a key part of the authorities	

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
	above but requires separate detailed consideration.	management to conserve and where possible enhance the site for the criteria for which they are designated CWS.	<p>Eye Green gravel pit:</p> <p>Maintain existing management by the Wildlife Trust on behalf on the City Council and maintain infrastructure as required.</p>	Maintain existing resource allocation.	biodiversity duty. Also failure to contribute to the achievement of the LAA target on those sites actually managed by the City Council.	Recreation Services/ Peterborough City Services
		<p>The Boardwalks:</p> <p>Maintain existing management and seek external funding for restoration and habitat creation works as well as works to paths and signage. In the longer term investigate a similar arrangement with the Wildlife Trust as at Eye Green.</p>	<p>Maintain existing resource allocation and seek funding for additional works. This will require the City Council to make available 10% match funding. It is estimated that up to £50,000 is required to bring this site properly up to Local Nature Reserve standard.</p> <p>An agreement with the wildlife trust could cost up to £4000 per year to manage the Boardwalks LNR. This</p>	Recreation Services/ Peterborough City Services		

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
				may however be offset by the current cost of day to day management of the Boardwalks incurred by PCS.		
			<p>Debdale pond:</p> <p>Maintain existing management.</p>	Maintain existing resource allocation.		Recreation Services/ Peterborough City Services
			<p>Broadway Cemetery:</p> <p>Maintain existing management.</p>	Maintain existing resource allocation.		Bereavement Services/ Peterborough City Services
			<p>Eastfield Cemetery:</p> <p>Wildlife Site status is currently incompatible with the ongoing burials at this site. Works with respect to the wildlife site are therefore not compatible with the sites primary function. It is therefore likely to be de-designated following a final resurvey.</p>	N/A		Bereavement Services/ Peterborough City Services

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			<p>City managed ancient woodland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pocock's Wood. ○ Grimeshaw Wood, Highlees Spinney, Spencer's Hurn & Water Spinney: <p>Carry out works as outlined in the tree and woodland teams ancient woodland report.</p>	<p>Maintain existing resource allocation and seek funding for additional works. Considerable additional funding will be required over the long term to achieve this. In the immediate future the City Council should seek Woodland Grant Scheme agreements to assist with the management of its ancient woodlands as well as pursuing additional external funding for habitat restoration works. Initially this might realistically be sought in the region of £50,000 and would require the City Council to make available 10% match funding. It should however be expected that funding additional</p>		<p>Tree and Woodland Team/ Peterborough City Services</p>

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
				to this would subsequently need to be sought.		
			<p>Holywell Fish Ponds:</p> <p>Maintain existing management.</p>	Maintain existing resource allocation.		Recreation Services/ Peterborough City Services
			<p>PCC managed County Wildlife Site Road Verges (Protected Road Verges):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Southey Lodge verge ○ Stamford Rd./Heath Rd./Ailsworth Rd./King St. verges ○ Barnack road verges ○ Bedford Purlieus-Wittering road verge <p>Maintain existing management of a cut at the end of the growing season (late September depending on weather conditions) and removal of cuttings.</p>	Maintain existing management and associated resource allocation.		Highways/ Peterborough City Services

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			<p>Make an additional cut at the start of the growing season to reduce standing grass growth (arisings need not be removed on this initial cut).</p>	<p>Additional cut is estimated to cost £650 PA.</p>		<p>Highways/ Peterborough City Services</p>
			<p>Onsite signing of CWS road verges to assist PCC staff, contractors and utilities companies.</p>	<p>Estimated to cost £2500.</p>		
			<p>In recognition of its forthcoming designation as a County Wildlife Site to add 1400 metres of verge at the south end of Highfield Road (700m of road length) to the County Wildlife Site management specification for road verges. For this 1400m of verge this would include the proposed additional cut at the beginning of each year, cutting and removal of cuttings at the end of the year and appropriate signage.</p>	<p>Cost of annual maintenance: £521 Signage of new County Wildlife Site: £170</p>		<p>Highways/ Peterborough City Services</p>

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
6	Take action to deal with invasive non native species where these are present on sites of wildlife importance; or where they are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.	<p>Employ best practice procedures to deal with invasive non native species on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.</p> <p>Otherwise the occurrence of invasive non native weed species should be reported by PCC officers where this is observed as a result of carrying out their normal duties.</p>	<p>Invasive species which are problematic in the Peterborough area and on sites managed by the authority include:</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed Giant Hogweed Orange Balsam</p> <p>The authority should also be on its guard against other problem species such as:</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam New Zealand pygmyweed Parrots feather</p> <p>Training in the recognition of these species should be organised for non specialist employees/contractors as required.</p>	<p>The Boardwalks LNR is the only known site to which this policy would currently be applicable with the presence of orange balsam and Japanese knotweed.</p> <p>Efforts to control orange balsam at the Boardwalks LNR are currently being achieved within existing resources through works undertaken by the Peterborough Conservation Volunteers on behalf on the City Council. Resourcing of these efforts will need to continue.</p>	These are not species that the City Council as a responsible land manager should tolerate, particularly on an LNR. Unless Japanese knotweed is treated it will spread within the site and cost more to deal with in the future.	All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
				The treatment of Japanese knotweed might be included in a bid for external funding. However the cost of treating is estimated to cost £600 for the approx 600 sq metres present at the Boardwalks LNR and may need to be dealt with separately to an external funding bid. This estimate is based upon a case study from Swansea where this species has been particularly problematic.		Peterborough City Services
7	Ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced within the planning system within Peterborough and deliver the key principals for biodiversity set out in	Planning related departments of the City Council to continue to work with internal advisers, conservation bodies and local groups with respect to the production o a Local	Planning Training as outlined in respect of specific action 1 in this table is also relevant in this respect.	Currently being achieved through existing resources. This includes keeping the key environmental characteristics of the Authority area under review in order to be	Failure to comply with the authorities legal duty with respect to Biodiversity as well as national, regional and local planning policy and legislation.	Planning

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
	national planning guidance.	Development Framework and also specific development proposals.		<p>able to progress a Local Development Framework and also contribute to an annual monitoring report on the Local Development Framework. The monitoring of barn owls to the East of Peterborough has proved important in this respect (cost £2395 PA) and in the authorities ability to consider major road and wind farm applications.</p> <p>County wildlife site monitoring as well as the working relationship with the Biological Records Centre also have a key role in the ability of the authority to comply with these requirements.</p>		

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
8	Increase and diversify wildlife interest in all green places and open spaces; and provide access to sites of wildlife interest for all sections of the community, including the disabled and disadvantaged. Also to promote accessibility to wildlife by creating these new habitats in public areas and encourage their creation in private areas such as, schools, factories, offices.	In the short-term reasonably significant areas should be identified for trailing new approaches to landscape management.	<p>Green Spaces</p> <p>The area chosen should be large enough to contain a variety of types of landscape (e.g., parks, playing fields, kick about areas, open space in housing areas, etc). The trial should involve consultation with local residents and relevant departments within the City Council in planning the management of such areas, and offer a range of different options for particular sites within the trial area and the habitats they possess.</p> <p>Where appropriate this could be through the use of set conservation management specifications or where it would be beneficial the production of management plans for these spaces such as already demonstrated for Central Park. The possibility of reduction in management</p>	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.		All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
			costs should be acknowledged as a possibility via this change in management. The possibility of the creation of new purpose designed sites and habitats for wildlife and people should not be ruled out nor should the potential role of the PCC Agricultural Estate.			
9		Biodiversity should be incorporated into all landscape management contracts.	Landscape contracts The Best Value review of Contract Services considered the Biodiversity impact of all activities carried out, including grass cutting regimes, weed control and pesticide use.	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.		All
10		Production of management plans for open spaces as has been done for Central Park. In the context of the above, where appropriate	Greenspace Management plans In consultation with relevant departments within the City Council and local residents and user groups. It should be recognised that works that	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.		All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
		incorporate differential grass cutting regimes in parks, verges and large open spaces.	are required on the grounds of Health and Safety take precedence over the needs of wildlife. This could however form part of the approach to PCCs creation of links within the habitat network discussed in line three above.			
11		Hedges and Shrubs The loss of hedges and shrubs will be resisted unless there are sound horticultural or other reasons to indicate otherwise e.g. disease, structural damage or the shrubs are due for replacement.				All
		Where it is appropriate consideration will be made for the gradual replacement of non-	For example where suitable native species can be selected to provide a similar landscape function.	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.		All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
		native species with native species.				
12		Give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.	<p>Community Projects</p> <p>The principle of leasing of certain areas to some bodies (e.g., Eye Green Local Nature Reserve to the Wildlife Trust) has been established but could be expanded to include leasing some open spaces to residents associations and Parish Councils with some delegated budgets for management. Further work with bodies such as Natural England and Wildlife Trust would be needed to develop and encourage these schemes. Support for small-scale community wildlife schemes is also provided through the Natural Environment project grant scheme (sometimes known locally as parish Environment grants).</p>	<p>Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Current resourcing of PCC Natural Environment Grant Scheme is £3500 PA.</p> <p>Support to a project such as Access to Nature is likely to cost approximately £3000</p>	Threat to delivery of an important part of the already existing Biodiversity Strategy.	All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
			PCC support of projects such as Nature in Your Neighbourhood and any successor projects such as Access to Nature would be relevant in this respect.	PA and could be accommodated within existing resources.		
13		Recognise the role of allotments and cemeteries in promoting Biodiversity.	<p>Allotments and Cemeteries</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Opportunities should be taken where there is local support for the utilisation of disused allotments and closed cemeteries for promoting wildlife habitats.</p> <p>Allotments and cemeteries that are in use have a part to play with respect to Biodiversity. This is not intended to be in conflict with their operating requirements.</p> <p>Initiatives such as biodiversity guidance for allotment holders should continue.</p>	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Threat to delivery of an important part of the already existing Biodiversity Strategy.	Peterborough City Services and Bereavement Services
14	Promote wider understanding and	Support initiatives to encourage wildlife	Community Engagement	Currently being achieved through	Threat to delivery of an important part of	All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
	enjoyment of Peterborough's wildlife through formal and informal education and interpretation, and events such as Peterborough's annual Green Festival.	friendly gardening, recognising the increasing amount of land devoted to this usage.	For example via Peterborough in Bloom.	existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	the already existing Biodiversity Strategy.	
15	Also promote active interest and involvement in wildlife issues at the local, national and international levels by all sections of the community at home, in the workplace, as a leisure activity and as part of the local economy.	With partners investigate the reinstatement a Peterborough Wildlife Group or Wildlife forum.	Support of Wildlife/Voluntary Groups At a recent urban wildlife meeting with local wildlife groups; support was voiced for the possibility of bringing back the Urban Wildlife Group for Peterborough. Also see action above under broad approach 8 to give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Threat to delivery of an important part of the already existing Biodiversity Strategy.	Natural Environment Team/All
16	Assist local voluntary wildlife groups in their aims of protecting wildlife and promoting interest in conservation.			Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Threat to delivery of an important part of the already existing Biodiversity Strategy.	All

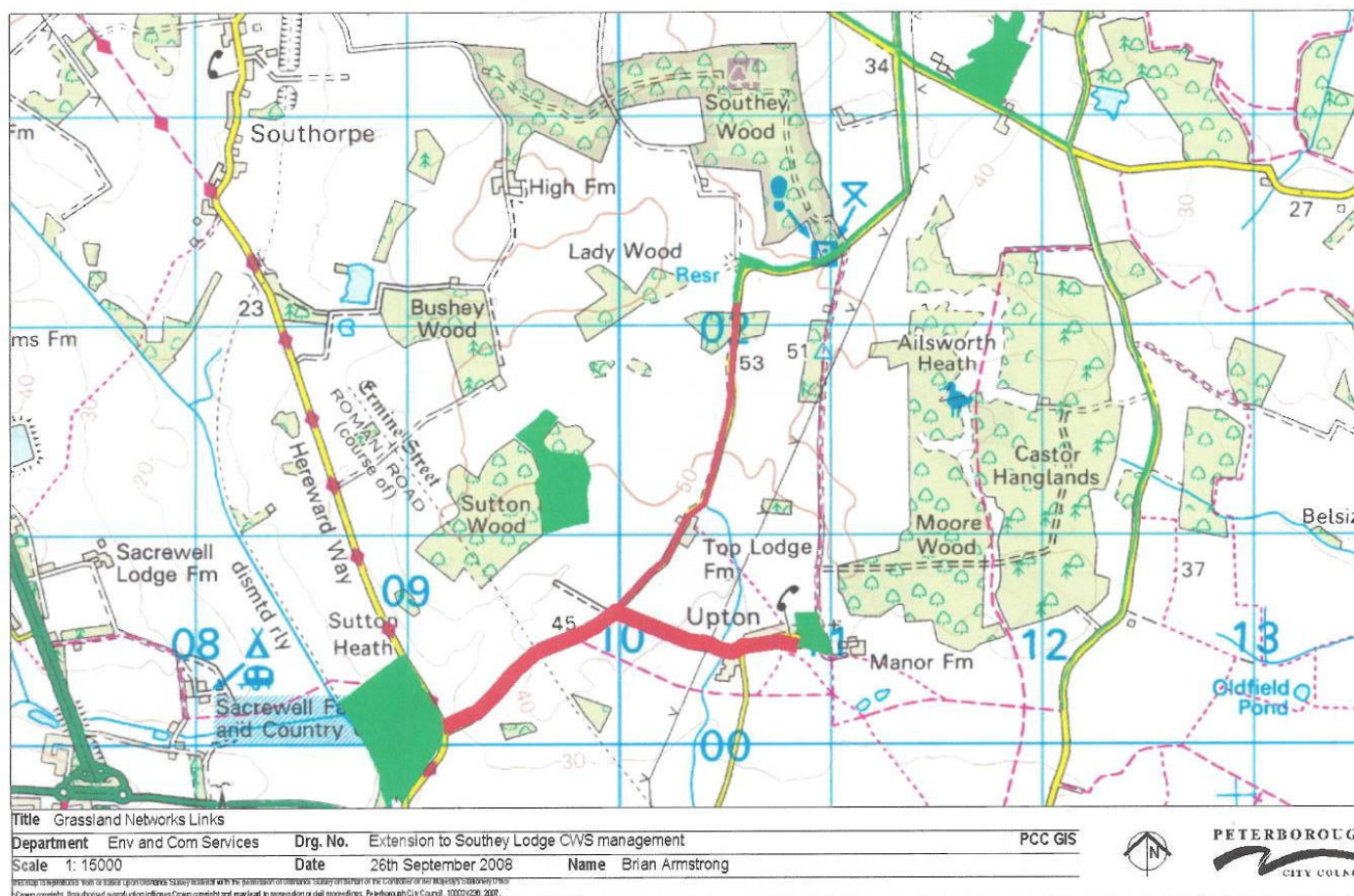
	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
17	<p>Contribute to the achievement of the Biodiversity Action Plan Targets relevant to the authorities functions and area (please see appendix C).</p> <p>To continue to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership.</p>	Establish measurable annual targets for the creation of new areas of wildlife interest.	<p>Biodiversity Action Plan Targets/Partnership Including tree/shrub planting and woodland creation – both through the City Councils own land management and its role as a planning authority.</p> <p>The Natural Networks partnership is investigating how the targets from the Green Grid Strategy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan and Peterborough Environment Audit can be brought together as one set of targets for Peterborough. If this were achieved it may be possible to further extract a set of targets for the City Council.</p>	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the PCC 2004 Biodiversity Strategy. (£3000 PA contribution to the Biodiversity Partnership).	Threat to delivery of a key part of the already existing Biodiversity Strategy.	All
18	Ensure that up to date biodiversity data is available and used appropriately to support this approach.	Continue to support the Biological Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	A Biological Records Centre is essential to enable effective and efficient management of biological and ecological data about Peterborough, but would be	Currently being achieved through existing resources (£6780 PA) under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Critical to support the delivery of the biodiversity strategy and compliance with biodiversity duty as well as	Natural Environment Team/Planning and Planning Policy

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
			financially unsustainable if developed just for the Peterborough area. This data is a pre-requisite to the planning, implementation and monitoring of Biodiversity gain, as well as the achievement of more sustainable patterns of development. Effective management of biological data is also essential to the monitoring of the success or otherwise of the targets set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan.		planning related elements of the City Councils functions.	
19	Contributes to the vision and approach overall.	Give particular emphasis to the protection of ancient and semi-natural habitats through all the City Council's activities.	Ancient Habitats For example ancient woodland and veteran trees.	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Critical to achieving significant elements of the biodiversity strategy and compliance with biodiversity duty.	All
20	Contributes to the delivery of the vision, approach and specific targets overall.	Investigate and exploit external funding opportunities for creating and enhancing the	External Funding While much can be achieved by the City Council, this should be viewed as essential to achieving many	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Critical to achieving significant elements of the biodiversity strategy.	All

	Approach to achieving the vision	Specific Actions (where relevant these are shown against the part of the approach to which they contribute)	Consideration of Relevant points from Method of delivery and Specific Actions required to achieve this	Financial Implications of Specific Actions	Implication of not carrying out action	Responsible/ Lead for specific task
		Biodiversity value of City Council managed land. For example from Forestry Commission, Natural England, landfill tax or aggregates levy.	of the above actions listed above and in particular those listed under.			
21	Contributes to the vision and approach overall.	Continue to review the use of pesticides (including fungicides and herbicides) in the City Council's land management.	Pesticides Such that their use is consistent, minimised and very carefully targeted in line with COSHH regulations requirements.	Currently being achieved through existing resources under the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.	Failure to comply with legal COSHH requirements.	All

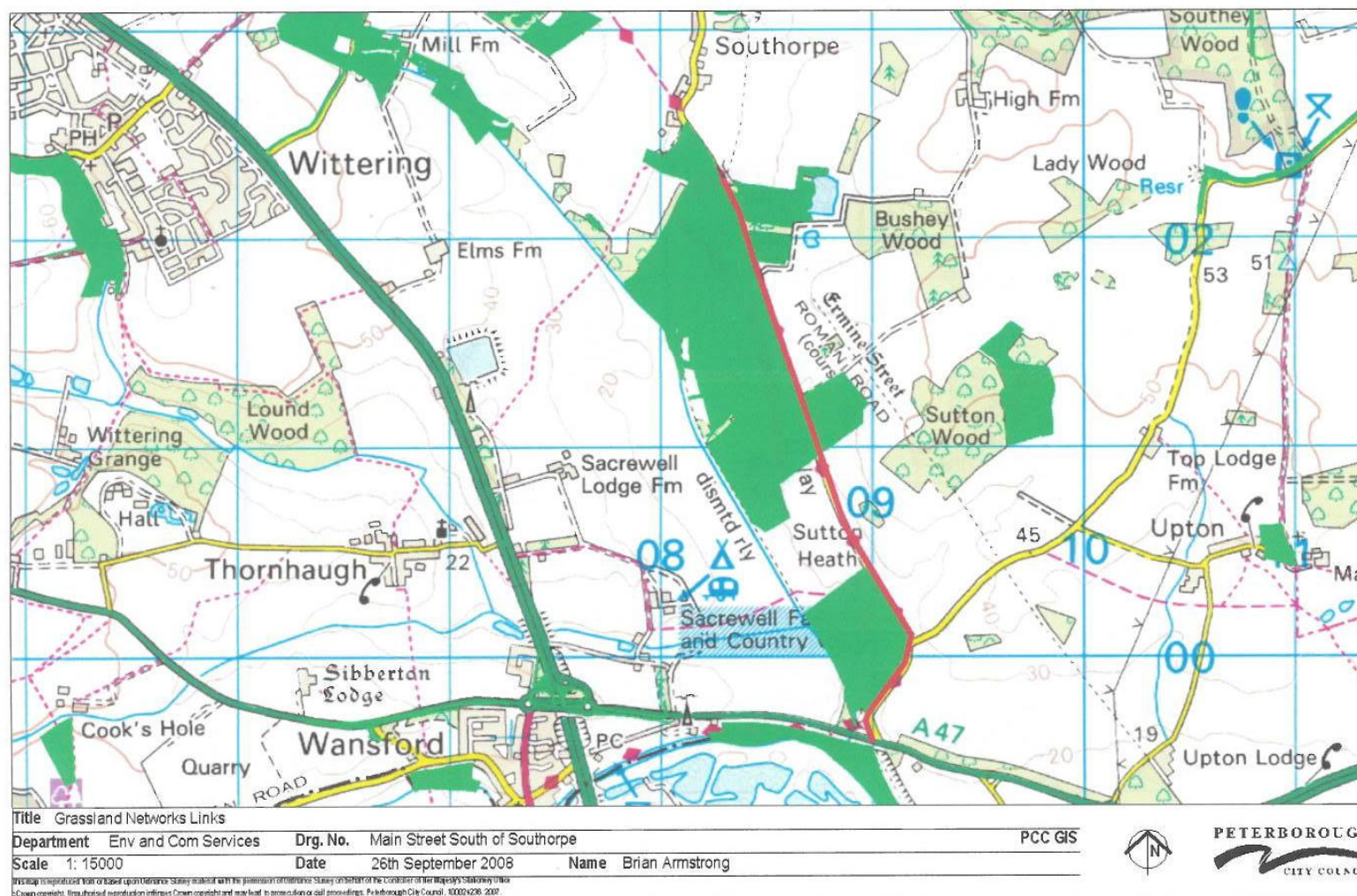
3. Drawings to illustrate lines 2 and 5 of the above table

Diagrams to show potential extensions to CWS standard Road verge maintenance (red) to reflect designation of new CWS and create habitat linkages between existing sites (green)

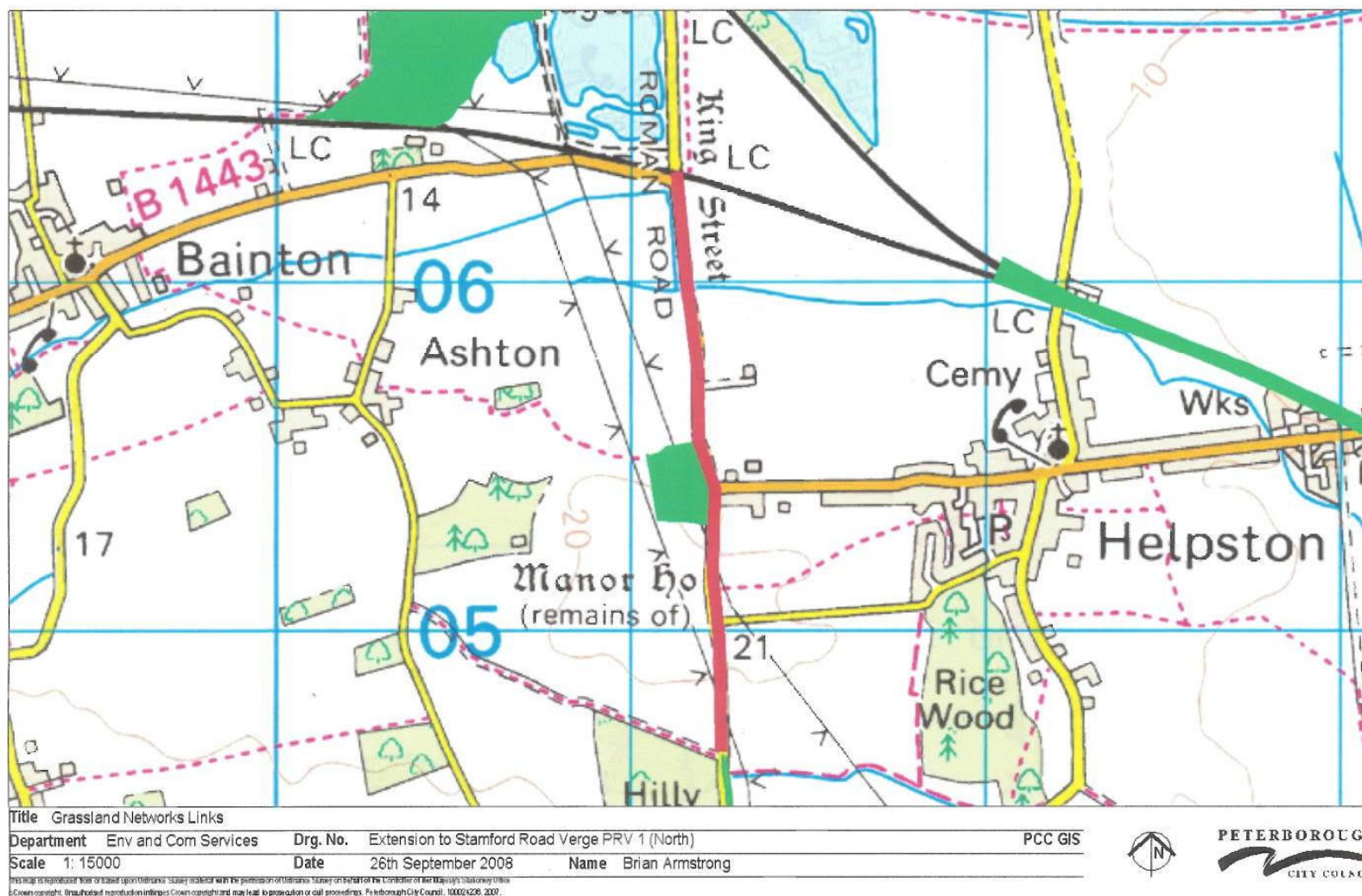


Diagrams to show potential extensions to CWS standard Road verge maintenance (red) to reflect designation of new CWS and create habitat linkages between existing sites (green)

43

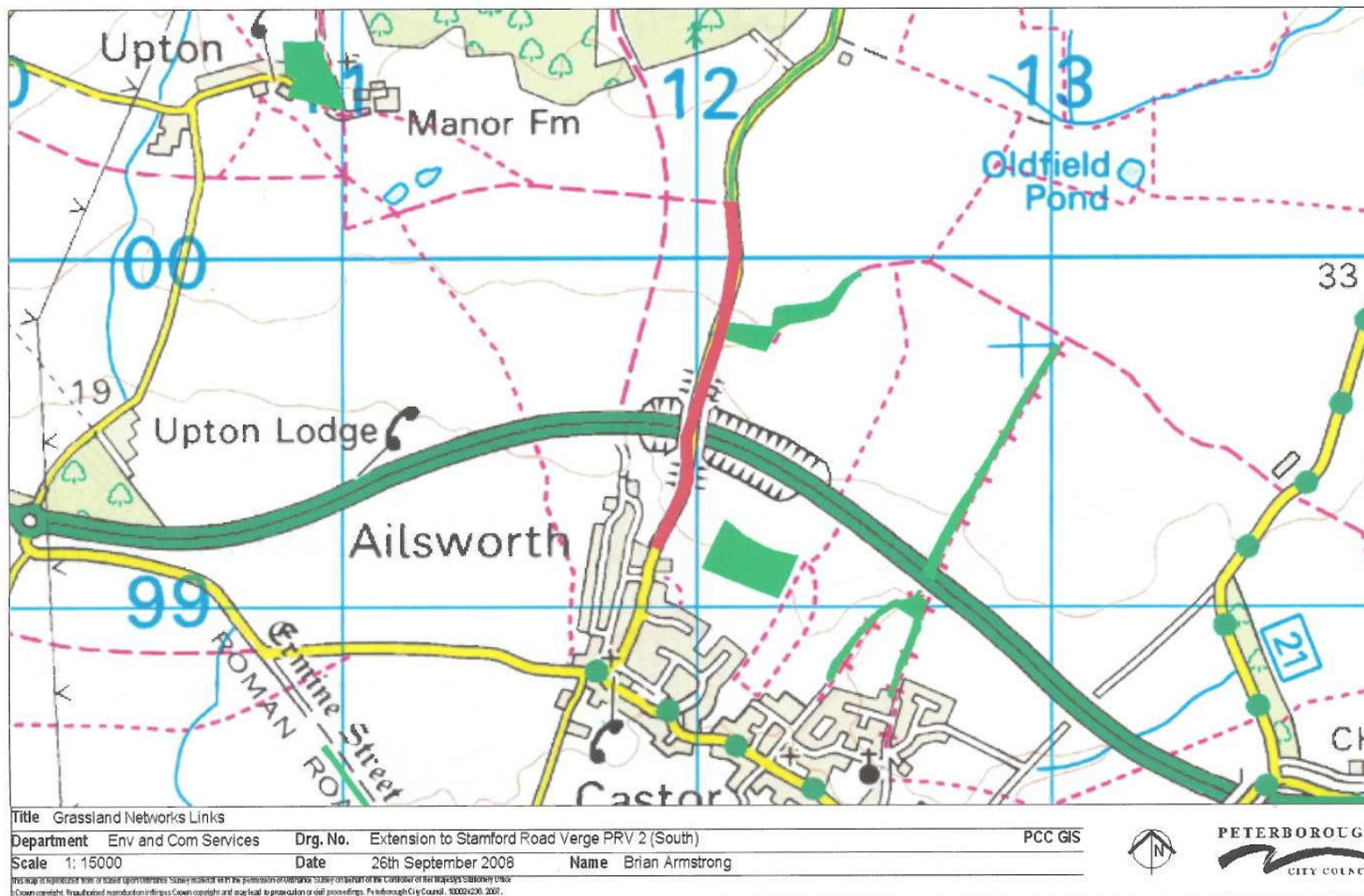


Diagrams to show potential extensions to CWS standard Road verge maintenance (red) to reflect designation of new CWS and create habitat linkages between existing sites (green)



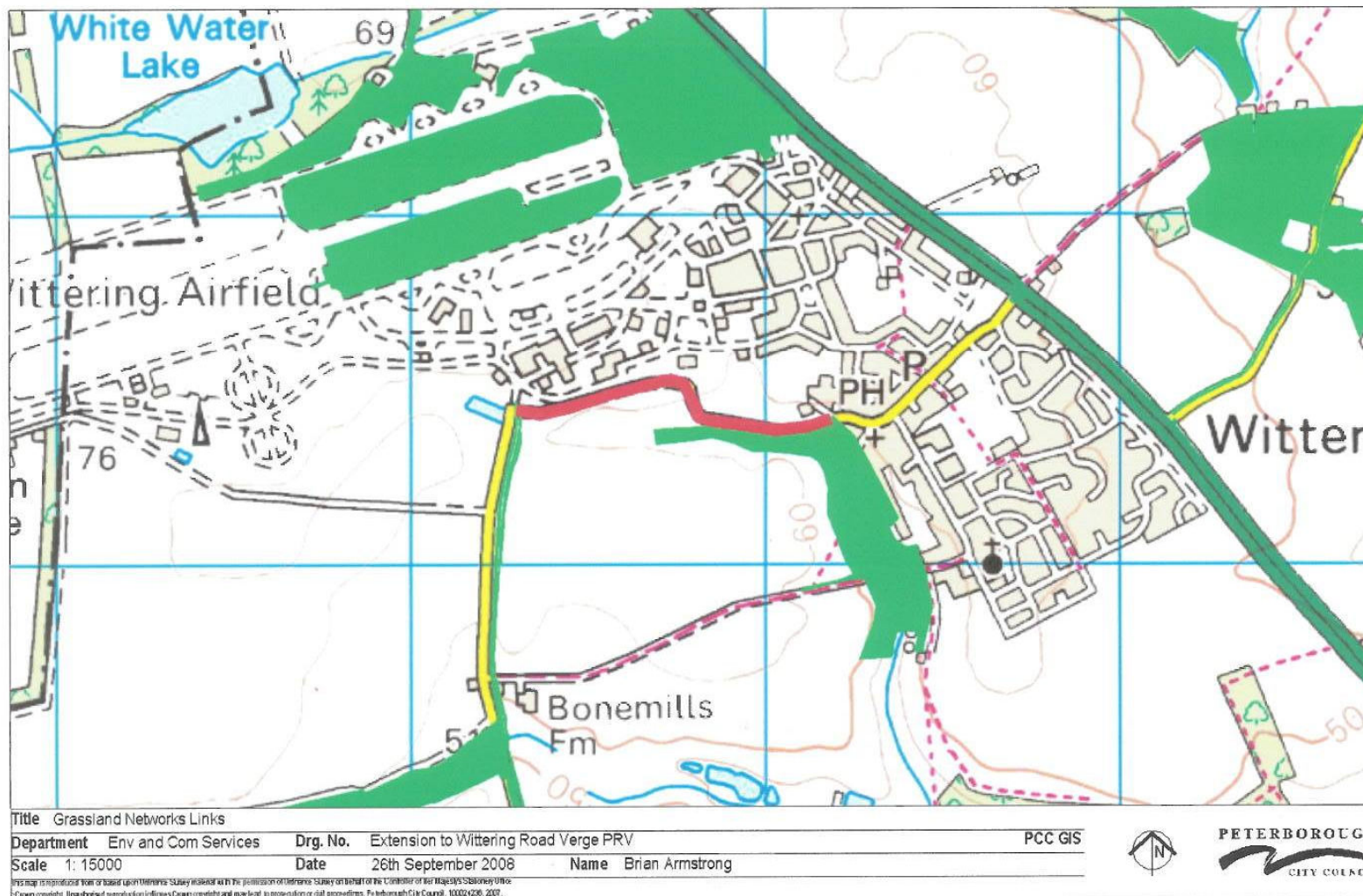
44

Diagrams to show potential extensions to CWS standard Road verge maintenance (red) to reflect designation of new CWS and create habitat linkages between existing sites (green)



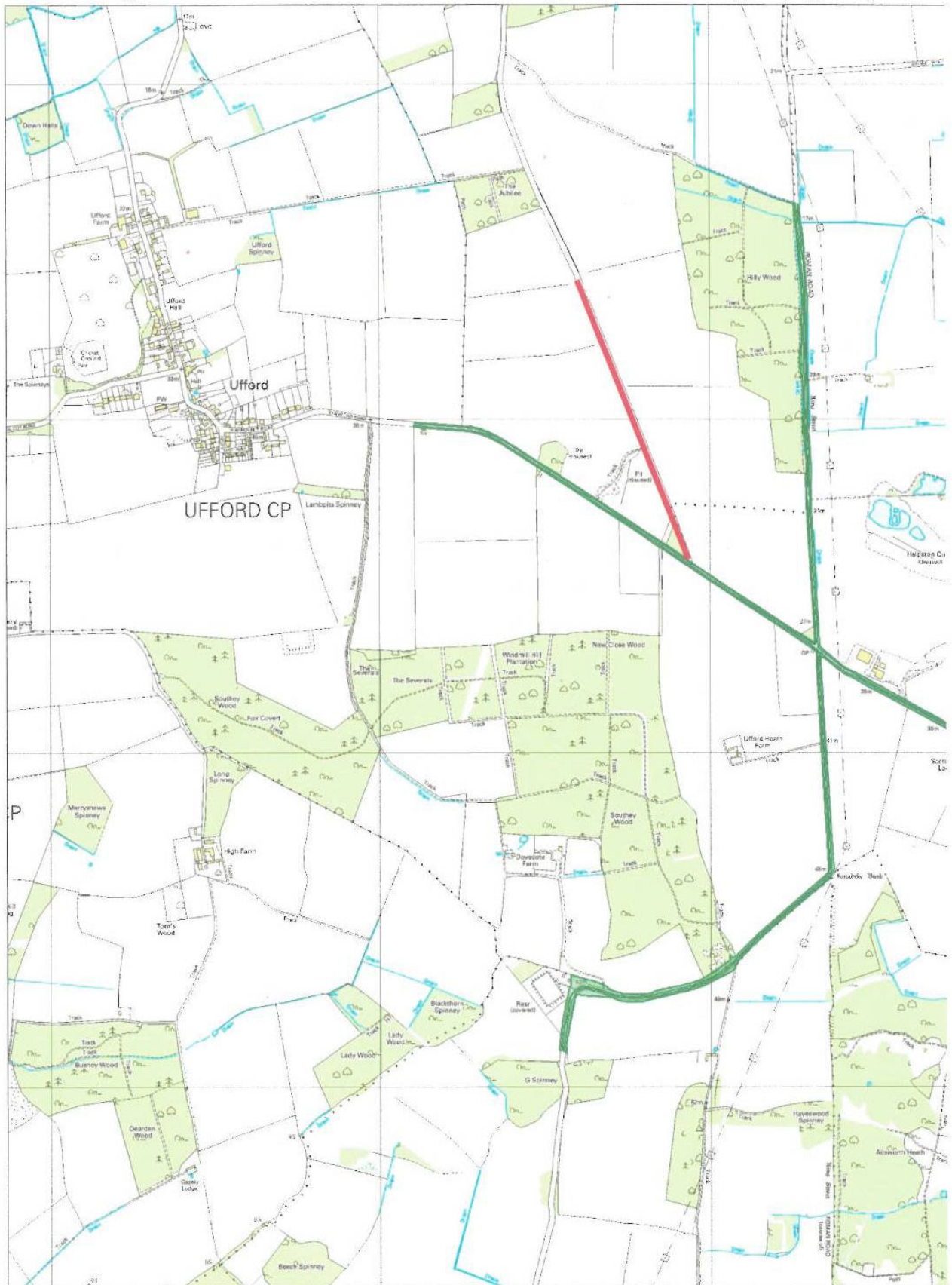
45

Diagrams to show potential extensions to CWS standard Road verge maintenance (red) to reflect designation of new CWS and create habitat linkages between existing sites (green)



46

Diagrams to show potential extensions to CWS standard Road verge maintenance (red) to reflect designation of new CWS and create habitat linkages between existing sites (green)



Title Ufford CWS verges

Department Natural Environment

Drg. No.

PCC GIS

Scale 1:15,000 at A4

Date 12th August 2009

Name Brian Armstrong



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Consideration of Feedback received from 2009 external consultation on proposed update to PCC Biodiversity Strategy

The external feedback laid out here was made against the external consultation version of the Biodiversity Strategy which included:

- Appendix A: Vision Statement.
- Appendix B: Action Points.
- Appendix C: Summary of BAP targets.
- Appendix D: Financial Implications.
- Appendix E: Policy with respect to works during the bird nesting season.

Appendices C and E have been removed from the updated strategy following internal scrutiny and Appendix D no longer forms part of the strategy itself but just part of the covering report to Cabinet.

The version of the Strategy upon which this feedback was given can be found on the City Councils [Website](#).

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
Ufford Parish Council				
1	General response	Overall support of document	N/A	N/A
2	Various	Various spelling errors	Accepted	Strategy updated accordingly.
3	Line 1 of table in Annex B	Farmers need more guidance about hedge management. There is more to it than not cutting hedges in the bird nesting season.	Outside of the scope of the Strategy and the City Councils Powers. However RSPB and other organisations are trying to work with farmers on this issue. Dialogue with the RSPB has taken place as part of the external consultation process, particularly in respect of hedge cutting during the nesting bird season.	None Possible.
4	Line 6 of table in	Confusion over road names. Locally people	The official County Wildlife Site Names	Local road names

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
	Annex B	<p>call it Marholm Road west of the King Street cross roads and I believe the road sign confirms this.</p> <p>Southey Lodge is on Langley Bush Road which extends from the Marholm Road/King Street crossroads nearly to the A47.</p>	<p>have been used which correspond to the mapping of these sites and 1:10,000 OS mapping. However for clarity the suggested names can be added to the strategy in brackets after the CWS name.</p>	<p>added in brackets after official CWS names.</p>
5	Annex C	<p>People understand the term "Protected Verges" better than County Wildlife Site. Signs are certainly needed to identify such verges.</p>	<p>Annex C is a summary of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plans. Cambridgeshire still have protected road verges which are a lesser designation than County Wildlife Sites. It is however acknowledged that Protected Road Verge is a more accessible term</p>	<p>Text of Appendix C updated so that it is clear that this refers to County Wildlife Site and Protected Road Verges.</p>
6	Appendix D	<p>It is suggested that the grass on CWS verges should be cut at the beginning of the growing season as well as at the end of it. There seems to have been some confusion about this in the past, also about the removal of the cut grass. This needs clarification. It may vary between sites and may also depend on the weather conditions.</p>	<p>The cut at the start of the growing season would be additional to the current regime, no removal of cuttings would be proposed.</p> <p>The current regime is detailed in the landscape management specification for the verges and does depend on weather conditions.</p>	<p>Clarification made to text in Appendix D.</p>
7	Appendix D	<p>No a reference to the parish grants. These are highly valued and mean that local people have more sense of ownership of their environment.</p>	<p>These are referred to as "Natural Environment Grant Scheme" in line 13 of the table.</p>	<p>Clarification made to text in Appendix D.</p>

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
Newborough Parish Council				
8	General response	Supportive of the draft.	N/A	N/A
Natural England				
9	Various	Various spelling errors	Accepted	Strategy updated accordingly.
10	Overall comment	Support aims, objectives and proposed actions outlined; and overall vision to maintain and enhance biodiversity within Peterborough.	N/A	N/A
11	Appendix A: Vision Statement	We suggest that this opening section makes reference to the relevant statutory requirements relating to biodiversity, including your authority's duties as a Section 28G authority under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by CRoW) and it's general biodiversity duties established under the NERC Act, the latter being a primary reason for updating the strategy.	Biodiversity Duty of the NERC Act is included in point 4 of the vision statement in Annex A. Duty towards Sites of Special Scientific Interest under S28G of the Wildlife and Countryside act is included in the text of point 3 of the Approach in Annex A.	Footnote added making reference to S40 of the NERC act. Text updated and footnote added.
12	Appendix A: Vision Statement	It may also be appropriate at this point to cross-reference current/proposed local biodiversity policies (including PCC Validation Checklists), as well as referring to the national policy requirements of PPS9.	It is not intended (or appropriate) that the strategy should be used in planning as its content is not solely focussed upon planning issues and therefore it would not be appropriate for it to become a Strategic Planning Document. It could not however fail to make mention of this area of the City Councils functions. These functions are however more appropriately governed by national and local planning guidance.	None

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
		<p>There should also be specific mention of the main legislative drivers in relation to protected sites and species i.e. the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>Reference to the UK and local Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plans and associated priority habitats and species targets should also be made.</p>	<p>References to the Wildlife and Countryside act have been added in response to the above. The protection afforded to wild birds is also covered in some detail in appendix E. The strategy otherwise aims to capture the spirit of this legislation and it hasn't been felt to be appropriate to directly repeat large amounts of the text of these acts. The duty towards the Habitats Regulations is also felt to be too general to realistically be directly referenced. The individual elements of the habitats regulations are however intended to be covered through the overall approach.</p> <p>Covered under point 11 of the approach in appendix A. A summary of local Biodiversity Action Plan targets is included at Appendix C.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
13	Appendix A: Vision Statement	<p>Regarding wider biodiversity, the Habitats Regulations require policy <i>“to encourage the management of features of the landscape of major importance for wild flora and fauna which, because of their linear or continuous nature or their function as stepping stones, are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species”</i>; this is also referenced in PPS9. The PCC Biodiversity</p>	<p>This is covered by point 2 of the approach outlined in appendix A. The strategy goes on to analyse how the City Council can directly contribute to this requirement directly through extending County Wildlife Road Verges and indirectly through working with partners such as the Natural networks Partnership.</p>	<p>Foot note added to point 2 of the approach in Appendix A.</p>

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
		Strategy should make reference to this and identify how it will seek to achieve compliance.		
14	Appendix A: Vision Statement	We would suggest that the requirements for multi-functional Green Infrastructure are also mentioned in context of development within the Growth Area; you may wish to refer to PPG17 and the forthcoming PPS17 which is expected to make direct reference to Natural England's Access to Natural Green space Standards (ANGSt). Reference to Peterborough's Green Grid Strategy (and the Green Wheel) should also be made.	See first part of response to line 12 above.	N/A
15	Appendix A: Vision Statement	The Vision identifies the percentage area of Peterborough covered by county/national designations. Would it be possible to make similar reference to international sites, or just list these sites by name (Orton Pit, Barnack Hills and Holes, Nene Washes)?	Noted.	Text added to reflect this.
16	Appendix A: Approach	Natural England supports the broad principles of this section but we believe some of these could be expanded, either here or in the relevant sections of Appendix D. For example, the section on the Planning System and Green Spaces should make specific reference to the statutory and policy requirements (if not mention in the Vision), the	The principals are extrapolated and expanded in Appendices B and D. See first part of response to line 12 above.	N/A N/A

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
		<p>aims of the Green Grid, Green Wheel, local BAP targets and your authority's responsibility to liaise with the relevant statutory bodies.</p> <p>Quantitative and qualitative objectives for green infrastructure could be incorporated, for example, to provide maximum benefit green infrastructure should be multi-functional so that in addition to providing areas for public access and recreation it could also provide biodiversity enhancements and/or sustainable drainage. Green infrastructure should also connect into the wider network of similar sites to improve access and provide linkages along which species can migrate.</p> <p>In Peterborough developers should be encouraged to incorporate the principles of the Green Grid Strategy into all development proposals as far as possible.</p>	<p>It has not been felt to be appropriate to repeat large bodies of text from statutes.</p> <p>The City Councils direct contribution for green infrastructure has been identified and is included in the strategy. This is based on a comparison of the City Councils direct land management responsibilities against the results of a habitat mapping and network analysis carried out by the Biological Records Centre on Behalf of the City Council.</p> <p>Where the City Council is not the land owner/manager the City Council would otherwise seek to work with the Peterborough Natural Networks Partnership as outlined in point 2 of the Approach outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>See first part of response to line 12 above.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
17	Appendix B section 4 (Orton Pit).	Support of the actions identified to improve the woodland strip area within the Orton Pit Site.	Noted.	N/A

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
18	Appendix B section 8 (Planning System).	<p>It would be useful in this section, or another suitable place in the document, to identify policies/principles adopted/proposed by your authority in relation to planning and biodiversity, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local development control principles (e.g. protection and enhancement of statutory and other sites; mitigation and compensation); • planning obligations; • policies for priority habitats and species, protected species; • policies to encourage biodiversity enhancement within development (could be specific e.g. x% of housing will include swift bricks/bird boxes/bat bricks etc or x% of business/industrial footprints should include green roofs) • Green Infrastructure principles – requirement for all new residential development, quantitative/qualitative standards, multi-functionality to achieve biodiversity targets. 	<p>See first part of response to line 12 above.</p> <p>The Strategy is intended to be about all of the City Councils functions and not just those of the Planning Authority. A document such as that which is outlined would need to be adopted as a Strategic Planning Document to be afforded any weight in planning. Such a document would need to be narrowly focussed upon the Authorities Planning Functions. It is therefore not felt that this is the correct mechanism to establish these principles.</p>	N/A
19	Appendix B section 18.	Support of authority's aim to provide continued support to the Biological Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	Noted.	N/A
20	Appendix E Section 1.3. (Nesting bird	Suggest that consideration be given to the inclusion of Hobby as a Schedule 1 species	Noted.	Text updated.

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
	protocol).	<p>that could possibly be found nesting within council-owned trees.</p> <p>However, it is probably better to take the precautionary approach and make generic reference to all Schedule 1 species and how they should be dealt with, rather than just limiting this to those which might occur.</p>	<p>It has been felt necessary to be specific to just those schedule 1 species which might be encountered when undertaking tree works. This has been felt necessary as the guidance note would ultimately be issued to contractors for specific operations such as tree works. A generic reference to schedule 1 species was considered but was felt to be insufficiently helpful in guiding contractors in the implementation of works.</p>	N/A
RSPB (from notes taken in meeting with RSPB officers)				
21	Appendix E Paragraph 1.1.	Paragraph 1.1 is a summary, section 1 overall gives context and an introduction	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
22	Appendix E Section 1.2.	Include reference to the legal defence given by Section 4.2.C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. This defence is the underlying principal of the protocol.	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
23	Appendix E Section 1.3.	<p>Honey Buzzard is unlikely to be encountered. Add Goshawk and Hobby.</p> <p>This would be useful as a conclusion at the end of the document. Keep the first part of 1.3 and repeat it at the end. Move second part entirely.</p>	<p>Noted. Removal of Honey Buzzard also verbally discussed and agreed with Natural England.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Strategy updated accordingly.</p> <p>Strategy updated accordingly.</p>

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
		Make reference to the legal defence given by Section 4.2.C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
24	Appendix E Sections 1.4 and 1.5	Replace reference to RSPB with reference to Conservation best practice. (It is not just the RSPB that advocates this practice).	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
25	Appendix E Section 1.4.	Make it clear that conservation best practice of not cutting hedges in the bird nesting season is above and beyond what is lawfully required. Make it clear that some species such as barn owl will nest outside of the typical March to August season.	Noted. Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly. Strategy updated accordingly.
26	Appendix E Section 2.0.	Preamble text required along the lines that prior to hedge and shrub works during the period 1/3 – 31/8 the following procedure is adopted. Repeat text with respect to schedule 1 birds including disturbance (unlikely to be present in hedges and shrubs).	Noted. Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly. Strategy updated accordingly.
27	Appendix E Table in section 2.1	Reverse order of table to give a logical escalation from the common place to the exceptional.	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
28	Appendix E	It would be useful for the 1 page user's guide that this policy document would be distilled into to be produced and accompany/illustrate the	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
		intended procedure.		
29	Appendix E Section 2.3.	Include a line with respect to Schedule 1 birds and disturbance (unlikely to be present).	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
30	Appendix E section 4.	Include text with respect to schedule 1 birds. Consider splitting down to make the distinction between street trees and shelter belts/woodland.	Noted. Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly. Strategy updated accordingly.
31	Appendix E section 4.2.1	Honey Buzzard is unlikely to be encountered. Add Goshawk and Hobby.	As for Line 23 above.	As for line 23 above.
32	Appendix E section 4.2.2	Greatly simplify this procedure. Remove 4.2.2 entirely and add to the end of 4.2.1 that if nest or cavities are present which might contain schedule 1 birds are present then works should cease and specialist advice should be sought unless it is an emergency and it would be unsafe to do so. Repeat the legal defence contained in section 4.2.c of the wildlife and Countryside Act.	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
33	Appendix E section 4.3.1.	Reverse order of table to give a logical escalation from the common place to the exceptional.	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.
34	Appendix E section 4.2 and 4.3	Reverse the order of these sections. If bird nests are present then consideration of	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.

	Section/Reference	Feedback	Consideration	Changes made to Strategy
		schedule 1 birds needs to be made.		
35	Appendix E section 6.	Add RSPB enquiries number and website for further information.	Noted.	Strategy updated accordingly.

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Samantha Dalton	
Contact Officer(s):	Paul Phillipson, Executive Director – Operations; Trevor Gibson, Director of Environment Capital.	Tel. 01733 317401

PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Cabinet Member for Environment Capital	Deadline date : 13 th October 2010
<p>1. That Cabinet considers and comments upon the draft “Home of Environment Capital Policy 2010” and recommends the policy, with any agreed amendments, to Council on 13th October 2010 for adoption as part of the Major Policy Framework.</p> <p>2. That Cabinet comments upon and supports the Home of Environment Capital communication and marketing approach for implementation subject to the adoption of the Major Policy by Council.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on 9th September 2010.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to develop a proposed policy which will form part of the major policy framework which will be considered by Council on 13th October 2010.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 “To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area”.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	29 th September 2010
Date for relevant Council meeting	13 th October 2010	Date for submission to Government Dept <i>(please specify which Government Dept)</i>	n/a

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Peterborough’s Sustainable Communities Strategy contains four priorities: Creating Strong and Supportive Communities; Creating the UK’s Environment Capital; Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities; Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth. Each of these priorities has a number of specific outcomes, beneath which sit a diverse range of actions and interventions to deliver lasting positive change for Peterborough.

- 4.2 By adopting the Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Council has committed itself to becoming the UK's Environment Capital, building on the longstanding experience as one of four Environment Cities in the UK. The "journey" from Environment City to Environment Capital is considered appropriate given the shift towards more global environmental challenges, such as climate change, as well as the city's ambition to grow substantially and sustainably.
- 4.3 Environment Capital now has widespread support as a key focus and unique selling point for Peterborough which has been achieved through clear political direction and the efforts of a committed, cross-sector Environment Capital Partnership.
- 4.4 Significant building blocks are already in place including the Sustainable Communities Strategy referred to above, the Local Area Agreement, the creation of an Environment Capital Cabinet portfolio and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee itself. A wide range of Council policies and strategies also support the approach which has commitment from Opportunity Peterborough as a key tool in driving economic development and of the wider business community as represented by the Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) Growth Partnership.
- 4.5 The city is currently leading on some areas of environmental activity and is receiving global recognition for its unique "Peterborough Model". This project is being delivered through collaboration with IBM, Royal Haskoning and Green Ventures to create an accessible on-line tool for visualising the city's environmental performance. As a result of this and other initiatives, the city is gaining a significant reputation for its environmental innovation, experience and credentials.

5. PROGRESS ON THE WORK STRANDS

- 5.1 **Environment Capital Major Policy:** The newly developed, draft Environment Capital Policy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. If adopted, the new policy will form part of the Council's Major Policy Framework and effectively replace the current Environment Policy adopted in 2000. It links the policy commitments back to the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the four priorities contained within it.
 - 5.1.2 The draft policy seeks to ensure that Environment Capital principles are a consideration in all Council services, strategies and policies. It is a brief document because the policy is underpinned by a wide range of specific policies and strategies each of which contains outcomes, actions, performance measures and targets. It should be noted that this framework of supporting documentation was not present at the time that the 2000 policy was drafted. As a consequence, the original policy was significantly more comprehensive.
 - 5.1.3 All aspects of the 2000 Environment Policy, with the exception of those relating to health and education, are covered by specific elements of the new policy together with relevant delivery strategies. The health section of the 2000 Policy focussed primarily on safer journeys to school and road safety. These are now covered by the "Increasing the Use of Sustainable Transport" section of the 2010 policy and delivered through TravelChoice, the Long Term Transport Strategy (Draft) and Local Transport Plan. The education element referred to environmental partnerships, which are already a cornerstone of Environment Capital delivery and activity in local schools. The latter is now implemented through the Eco-School initiative; however, specific reference has now been made to the importance of education in the 2010 Policy (under "General") following specific comments made at the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee regarding its omission.
 - 5.1.4 It is intended that key partners across the city will adopt tailored versions of the new policy for their own organisation.
- 5.2 **Delivery:** The Director of Operations will be the corporate lead in ensuring that the policy is embedded throughout the organisation. It is intended that responsibility for specific elements of the policy will be allocated to Cabinet Members, Directors and Heads of Service as appropriate. As stated previously, the policy will be delivered through a range of

existing policies and strategies including the Local Transport Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Management Action Plan, Core Strategy and so on. Future reviews of such documents will ensure that all relevant aspects of the Environment Capital Major Policy are fully considered and incorporated. New documents, such as the emerging Environment Capital Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will complete the approach. The draft policy included at Appendix 1 sets out the key Council policies, strategies and plans against each element.

- 5.2.1 A Single Delivery Plan for the Home of Environment Capital is currently being developed for publication and will bring together a range of prioritised projects and initiatives across the city all of which are fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy goal.
- 5.2.2 Home of Environment Capital will only succeed if our actions as a city match our aspirations. This will mean making a real, positive difference to the lives of all who reside in, work in and visit Peterborough.
- 5.2.3 *For Peterborough citizens:* Home of Environment Capital means that we pioneer exciting environmental projects that lead the way in green living. The results make us proud and give us a better quality of life. We'll use this approach to make sure that we continue to improve our day-to-day performance whilst growing our reputation as a leading city (e.g. Green Glinton, Eco-Arts Project, Travel Choice, Future Jobs Fund and the Green Back Yard).
- 5.2.4 *For the local stakeholder:* Home of Environment Capital is our Unique Selling Point (USP). It is central to everything we do in the city and how we promote ourselves. It is a clear, differentiated position that puts us at the forefront of finding solutions for urgent national and international challenges. Through this we will play to our strengths, build our self confidence and develop our reputation whilst drawing investment and talent into the city (e.g. "The Peterborough Model", Environment Capital Single Delivery Plan).
- 5.2.5 *For the business person:* Home of Environment Capital is a way of bringing new ideas, new investment and greater visibility to our city. Making Peterborough synonymous with the environment plays to our strengths and positions the city to benefit from a low carbon economy. Home of Environment Capital is a positive message that we can substantiate through real examples that deliver investment and build Peterborough's reputation (e.g. Opportunity Peterborough Green Business Marketing Campaign, the Eco-Innovation Centre, Enviro-Cluster).
- 5.2.6 *As a way of introducing Peterborough to others:* Peterborough is an aspiring, fast growing city that pilots solutions to accelerate its pace of change towards sustainable living. We are Home of Environment Capital and proud to lead the way as environmental experts. We have everything we need to be a living laboratory to trial new thinking and new technologies. This approach is great news for citizens and businesses, and makes us a key player in the race towards sustainability (e.g. "The Peterborough Model", Environment Capital Marketing Campaign).
- 5.3 Stakeholder Engagement:** The Director of Environment Capital, with support from GPP colleagues, has consulted with a wide range of partners to galvanise support for and input to the Environment Capital approach in order to build and maintain a common approach and culture across the city. Whilst individual views have varied, organisations such as GPP, Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT), the Growth Partnership, Opportunity Peterborough (OP) and the Environment Capital Partnership have been broadly supportive of the new approach. As discussed at the July meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee, promotion of the Home of Environment Capital must be backed by positive actions which deliver improved outcomes for local residents and communities. Getting the key messages out to residents and businesses alike is crucial to its success.
- 5.4 Launch and Communications:** Marketing and communications expertise from city partners including, PCC, OP, PECT, GPP, UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (UKCEED), voluntary and business sector representatives has been pooled

to lead the development of a communications strategy to ensure that the new approach is successful in enhancing the city's regional, national and international profile. This profile will, in turn, support inward investment and economic development.

- 5.4.1 Peterborough has been an Environment City for 15 years, and 'Creating the UK's Environment Capital' for a further two years. Now the city is repositioning itself as 'home of environment capital' which gives Peterborough a unique differentiation backed up with nearly two decades of substance and progress. Sustainability helps us deliver on a range of agendas to create a better, stronger city: health, economy, education, growth, inward investment.
- 5.4.2 A number of branding options were considered by the group and following consultation with the leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment Capital the strap line "**Home of Environment Capital**" was considered to be the most appropriate and effective. It should be noted that this supports rather than replaces the Sustainable Community Strategy priority referred to previously. To aid with visual communication a logo has been produced (Appendix 2) which complements the now widely used city marketing brand "Peterborough...the Future is You".
- 5.4.3 Key messages include:
- Home of Environment Capital is a challenge the city has set itself;
 - It calls on everyone to help build a better future for the city by getting behind Home of Environment Capital;
 - Home of Environment Capital draws on our city's strengths to form our ethos.

An internal launch campaign is planned for autumn 2010. Using existing resources and already planned marketing activities we seek to engage local stakeholders, residents and businesses.

It should be noted that the "Home of Environment Capital" is a city concept. The Council, by adopting the major policy is committing itself to the concept which already has widespread support amongst the business community and other partners.

- 5.5 Performance Management:** At its meeting in July, the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee resolved that before the City Council launched its Environment Capital approach, agreed criteria should be met and an independent assessment should be undertaken. The most cost effective basis for this comparative work is the Forum for The Future Sustainable Cities Index. The organization assessed Peterborough as part of the Jonathan Porritt Master Class in Nov 2009. A summary of the approach and the 2009 assessment is included as Appendix 2. It is intended that Forum for the Future assess the city again as part of the 2010 Index later this year. It should be noted that the Index compares Peterborough with a number of much larger UK cities but is one of only a few, reliable local authority comparators. This is likely to become more of a challenge with the deletion of the National Indicator set.

- 5.5.1 As mentioned previously, the existing strategies which support and deliver the "Home of Environment Capital Policy" contain within them specific outcomes, actions and targets. These are routinely monitored and reported upon. For example, an update on progress relating to the Bio-diversity Strategy was considered by the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee at its September meeting.
- 5.5.2 In addition, key deliverables, outcomes and performance measures will be developed and monitored as part of the Single Delivery Plan referred to previously.
- 5.5.3 The success of the Major Policy will also be assessed and monitored through an officer checklist which will accompany future reports and decisions. The checklist, currently under development, will cover all aspects of the policy set out in Appendix 1.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Major policy has been considered by a wide range of Stakeholders as set out in Section 4.
- 6.2.1 Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee considered the draft “Home of Environment Capital” Policy on 9th September. The Committee resolved that officers should:-
- (i) Ensure that the Home of Environment Capital Policy makes reference to all of the other related policies and strategies; and
 - (ii) Re-write the opening paragraph of the Policy to make clearer the intent of the Policy, including that details of the related policies and strategies are yet to be included.

Both recommendations have now been incorporated in the latest draft of the policy attached at Appendix 1.

- 6.2.2 As a consequence of these recommendations and other comments made during the debate, a number of changes have been made to the policy. Key supporting strategies, policies and plans are now listed under each outcome and new policy elements have been added to cover education, procurement and the built environment. With those additions, all elements of the 2000 policy, which the 2010 policy will replace, are included.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 Subject to comments made by Cabinet, it is intended that the Home of Environment Capital Policy be considered by Council at its October meeting and adopted as part of the Major Policy Framework.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Council’s current Environment Policy (2000) is now out of date and does not adequately take into account Peterborough’s growth targets or the global environmental challenges which we now face. Nor does it take into account the wide range of policies, plans and strategies, developed since 2000, which contribute to environmental improvement. The adoption of the Home of Environmental Capital Policy will ensure that environmental considerations are placed at the heart of all Council policies, strategies and services ensuring that Peterborough grows both substantially and sustainably. The communication and marketing approach will ensure local, national and international recognition for the emphasis it places on environmental quality and performance.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Peterborough’s environmental reputation and, most recently, its ambition to create the UK’s Environment Capital is already widely known both locally and nationally. It is therefore considered appropriate to build on this reputation to move the city forward.
- 9.2 The Council could decide to maintain Peterborough’s existing Environment City focus but it is considered that the agenda, both in terms of the environmental challenge and the future growth target, has changed substantially since the designation was awarded in the early 1990s. Home of Environment Capital substantially updates the approach in line with these considerations.

10. IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 “Creating the UK’s Environment Capital” is one of four priorities in the Sustainable Communities Strategy aimed at delivering *“a truly sustainable Peterborough, the urban centre of a thriving sub-regional community, of villages and market towns, a healthy, safe and exciting place to live, work and visit and famous as the environment capital of the UK.”*
- 10.2 There are no direct financial implications associated with the adoption of the policy. These will be part of the consideration when the policy is applied to specific service areas, policies and strategies.

10.3 As outlined in Section 4, the “Home of Environment Capital” approach will have positive impacts in relation to other Sustainable Community Strategy priorities particularly in relation to improving health and economic development.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008 - 2011

Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

Environment Policy 2000

Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2011.

Peterborough – Home of Environment Capital Communication Strategy (Draft) August 2010

Home of Environment Capital – Major Policy 2010

Introduction:

Peterborough is the UK's Home of Environment Capital - a place where environmental issues are put first in a city which aspires to be a role model and leader in all aspects of sustainable development.

As the Home of Environment Capital, Peterborough not only delivers sustainability but thinks sustainably. Environment Capital is as much about the intellectual response we bring to the challenges of the future as it is about the way we manage resources and grow our economy.

Our agenda has moved far beyond that of an Environment City. We are using the sustainability agenda to improve quality of life for all our people - residents, visitors and workers alike. Our Environment Capital will provide solutions to our health outcomes and will support our on-going work to build strong and safe communities. It will inspire and influence everything we do - not as an add-on policy, but as an integral way of thinking across the whole of our agenda.

As the Home of Environment Capital, we seek, as thought leaders, to raise the bar for sustainable development across the country. We will use our Environment Capital to pilot new solutions for all aspects of the sustainability agenda and we will share our learning - and learn from others - to ensure that the UK leads the world in solving our environmental challenges.

For the people of Peterborough being the Home of Environment Capital means living in a city and villages where quality of life constantly improves through the adoption of sustainable solutions to today's and tomorrow's issues. Where health gets better because we exercise more, use sustainable forms for transport and have access to high quality nature. Where education constantly improves and delivers young people ready to take up jobs in the industries of the future particularly in a growing low carbon economy. Where communities get stronger as we build cleaner and greener neighbourhoods.

Mission Statement:

Peterborough City Council is committed to improving the environment in its progress towards a sustainable city. The policies and activities undertaken and promoted by the Council have many impacts on the environment. The Council has a leading role in "the Home of Environment Capital", by contributing to the creation of a high quality local environment, both now and for future generations and in reducing the adverse impact of the city on global communities.

To that end, it has adopted the Sustainable Communities Strategy which has, as one of four priorities, "Creating the UK's Environment Capital".

The Council will continually monitor and improve its environmental performance and comply with relevant legislation, policies and codes of practice to achieve the four outcomes supporting the Environment Capital priority. A wide range of policies, strategies and plans support the delivery of the policy. Key strategies are included under the relevant policy outcome below:-

Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener:

(Key delivery through: Open Space Strategy (awaiting adoption), Trees and Woodland Strategy (awaiting adoption), Bio-Diversity Strategy)

- We will minimise, and wherever possible eliminate, the release of substances which will cause demonstrable damage to the environment or its inhabitants.
- We will protect, and where possible and appropriate, enhance habitats and bio-diversity.

- We will continue to improve and enhance the urban and rural environment whilst improving access to the latter.

Conserving Natural Resources:

(Key delivery through: Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Management Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (awaiting adoption), Waste 65+, Energy Study, Water Cycle Study, Core Strategy (awaiting adoption), Supplementary Planning Document (under preparation))

- We will seek to minimise the use of energy and will ensure that, where energy is used, it will be done so effectively and efficiently. We will, where practicable, use sustainable energy sources and will invest in, demonstrate and promote the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable generation. By doing so, we will help to reduce the impacts of climate change and our contribution to its causes.
- We will minimise the creation of waste, and will reuse or recycle materials where this is cost effective. We will ensure transportation and disposal of our waste to comply with current safe practice.
- We will seek to minimise waste of energy, and will ensure that, where energy is used, the greatest possible proportion becomes useful heat, light or power. We will use environmentally safe and, where practicable, sustainable energy sources and will invest in, demonstrate and promote, the benefits of energy efficiency.
- We will promote and encourage development which incorporates the highest environmental standards.

Increasing the Use of Sustainable Transport:

(Key delivery through: Local Transport Plan, Long Term Transport Strategy, Core Strategy, Supplementary Planning Document (under development))

- Through our "TravelChoice" initiative, will use the least polluting transport methods compatible with our necessary service provisions and use smarter measures to influence travel behaviour for all Peterborough residents.
- We will implement Travel Plans for our employees, elected members and schools and use planning controls and other procedures to encourage the development and use of such Plans by all other employers and their employees in the City.

Growing our Environment Business Sector:

(Key delivery through: Economic Development Strategy, Core Strategy, Supplementary Planning Document (under development))

- Using the Enviro-Cluster and Eco-Innovation Centre as a base, to support the development of the "green" and low carbon business sector through our Economic Development and related activities.

General:

- The Council is committed to raising awareness of environmental issues in the community, local schools, and businesses as well as within the Council itself.
- The Council will consider environmental impacts as part of its procurement of goods and services.
- In addition, the Council will ensure, through the development and implementation of a **Single Delivery Plan**, that "Home of Environment Capital" contributes to the wider Sustainable Communities Strategy including the priorities:-

Creating Strong and Supportive Communities, Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth and Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities

Proposed “Home of Environment Capital” Logo



FORUM FOR THE FUTURE – SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDEX 2009

(extract from Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index)

Definitions:

The indicators, in their groups, provide a snapshot of sustainability in each of the cities assessed.

environmental impact basket:

This basket gives an indication of the cities' environmental performance through the inclusion of data on air and water quality, resource use and ecological footprint:-

- air quality – the annual mean of Nitrogen Oxides as NO₂
- river water quality – the percentage of rivers where biological and chemical quality was deemed to be good or fair
- ecological footprint – the impact of services, food, housing, transport and consumables on the environment
- household waste collected per head.

quality of life basket:

This basket looks at the social sustainability of a city – what it feels like to live in.

- Health: Life expectancy from birth
- Green Space: Number of Green Flag and Green Pennant awards per 100,000 people
- Transport: Number of minutes per month spent getting to four key services: food store, GP, secondary school and further education (similar to NI 175)
- Employment: % of the working population claiming Job Seekers Allowance (NI 152)
- Education: % of the population with an NVQ2 or above (similar to NI 79)

future-proofing basket:

The indicators in this basket aim to reflect the preparedness of the city for the future and readiness to respond to the challenge of sustainability:-

- local authority commitments on climate change – local authorities were given points based on three criteria
- green business per capita – the number of green businesses listed on yell.com
- biodiversity – percentage of land deemed to favour biodiversity
- recycling – per cent of household waste recycled or composted.

Environmental Impact	Rank
Air Quality	1st
Biodiversity	1st
Waste	21st
Ecological Footprint	18th
Overall Rank	11th

Quality of Life	Rank
Employment	12th
Education	17th
Health	19th
Green Spaces	14th
Overall Rank	16th

Future-Proofing	Rank
Climate Change	11th
Food	2nd
Economy	6th
Recycling	1st
Overall Rank	3rd

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member	Councillor Diane Lamb, Health and Adult Social Care Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Denise Radley, Director of Adult Social Services	Tel. 758444

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER ON HEALTH

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Denise Radley, Director of Adult Social Services	Deadline date :
<p>Cabinet members are asked to agree that the City Council submit the attached response to the government's White Paper: "Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and its associated consultation documents.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 In July 2010 the coalition government published a White Paper on health services entitled "Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS" plus four supporting consultation documents. As well as setting out proposed changes to the NHS, the White Paper has significant implications for local authorities as well as implications locally given our partnership with NHS Peterborough.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This reports presents to Cabinet, the proposed response form the City Council on this important White Paper.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/ Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. BACKGROUND

4.1 As above, the government has published a White Paper on health services which also contains wide-reaching implications for local authorities.

5. PROPOSAL

5.1 The attached draft response to the White Paper consultations is presented to the Cabinet for approval.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Discussions have taken place at the City Council's Corporate Management Team and individual directors have taken part in discussions within their own networks and professional bodies e.g. Directors of Finance and Directors of Adult Social Services. A presentation on the White Paper was made to the health Scrutiny Commission on 13 September 2010 so that their views could be incorporated.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 Peterborough City council makes a clear response to the government on the proposals set out in the White Paper.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is important that the City Council makes its views on the proposed changes known as part of the consultation.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The City Council could choose not to submit a response to the consultation but it was felt the significance of the proposals was such that we should contribute our views.

10. IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Legal

The government will be publishing a response to the consultation followed by a health Bill later this year. Many of the proposed changes require new primary legislation to be enacted.

10.2 Finance

Given the current context of extreme tightening of public sector finance, the cost of implementing changes is a concern and has been flagged in our response. It will also be important to ensure that any services transferring into the City Council e.g. public health, are properly resourced. It is proposed that public health budgets will in future be ring-fenced.

10.3 Human Resources

Changes in relation to public health and adult social care will mean that staff would transfer to the City Council. Considerable work will be needed to plan and implement these changes.

10.4 Equalities

An impact assessment has been published alongside the White Paper and the City Council will need to ensure that equality and diversity issues are taken into account when any changes are implemented.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The full White Paper and associated documents (as well as summaries) are available on the Department of Health website and copies have been placed in the members' lounge.

Response to the White Paper
“Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS”
Peterborough City Council

Vision for the NHS

We note the vision set out within the White Paper and await the further White Paper on public health services and a White Paper on reform of adult social care, both of which are to be published later this year. In both cases there will be considerable implications for local authorities which we would welcome further engagement and consultation on.

We welcome the proposals which focus on reducing waste and bureaucracy in the NHS and also the focus on devolving power locally. It is important that this principle is maintained in relation to the many specific proposals set out in the White Paper e.g. in how GP commissioning and local authority collaboration is undertaken.

We also welcome the shift of public health functions back to local authorities as so many of the determinants of good health are closely related to local authority functions. A White Paper will be published later this year and it will be important to have clarity regarding:

- Which public health responsibilities will transfer
- How the adequacy of public health budgets at the point of transfer will be ensured
- How the premium will be determined linked to local health outcomes and inequalities

The changes set out will increase the role and responsibilities of local government and the implications of this need to be considered:

- Financial – there will be costs of undertaking the changes set out, that will need to be taken into account given the tight finance context that local authorities are currently facing
- Political/democratic – a new set of options for running local authorities are under consideration and these need to ensure that the wider roles and responsibilities that local authorities will take on can be accommodated in each of the options e.g. Cabinet and Leader models etc.
- Timescales – these are rapid and these need to be considered alongside the financial implications

Putting Patients and the Public First

Local involvement Networks (LINKs) are very new and replaced the previous Patient and Public Involvement forums. We would question whether a further change is worthwhile given the newness of LINKs and the transaction costs involved in setting up, reconstituting and retendering of services which could result. Local authorities currently commission LINKs and LINKs would of course be key players in a Statutory Health & Wellbeing Board.

The proposals in relation to extending the role of LINks/HealthWatch are not sufficiently clear and there is concern to ensure that funding would be sufficient for any enhanced roles. In particular it is not clear why such organisations would be the right organisations to carry out advocacy services particularly in the case of those who lack capacity to make decisions. There are a range of specialist advocacy providers who can already be commissioned to deliver these services.

Improving Healthcare Outcomes

With reference to the consultation questions on integration, we would urge that consideration is given to compatibility across outcome indicator sets and across inspection regimes. For example, outcomes for children's health, safeguarding vulnerable adults, safeguarding children and looked after children – it is critical that measurements of outcomes applied to the NHS and GP commissioners support the requirements of Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission who inspect children's services and adult social care.

Autonomy, Accountability and Democratic Legitimacy

GP commissioning will provide opportunities for the further integration of health and social care which we are keen to grasp. The proposals for abolition of PCTs have significant implications for the few areas, Peterborough included, which have fully integrated health and social care using all the flexibilities within the National Health Services Act. The proposals require the complete redesign of our integration and partnerships in order to move forward.

The outlined role of the NHS commissioning board could be better set within a joint working context. For example model contracts, tariff systems and clinical networks would all benefit from being considered across health, social care and wider services.

It is unclear whether and how lead commissioning arrangements may continue under the new arrangements. For example, it is perfectly possible that GP consortia and local authorities may feel it best that the local authority lead commission all health and social care services for particular areas as is possible now under the Health Act flexibilities. Of particular concern is learning disability services where we believe the lead role of the local authority should be maintained. Other potential areas include mental health and children's services.

In terms of GP consortia themselves, we do believe that consideration should be given to minimum/maximum sizes and in particular believe that a minimum size will be important to ensure that management cost savings are achieved. In terms of collaboration and partnership, a single consortium for Peterborough (population c 160,000 -170,000) would be preferred. Co-terminosity with local authorities is likely to provide the best chance of effective joint commissioning. The consultation questions relating to

commissioning support for GP commissioners are important areas of concern. The development of consortia needs to be set within the wider public sector context where tightening finances mean that most local authorities are seeking radical approaches to achieving cost reductions particularly in back-office and support services. Local authorities either through their in-house services or through alternative models of commissioning support can potentially provide a solid and cost effective basis for the provision of such support. We would like to see expectations that GP consortia will as a minimum explore such collaboration so as not to set up a further set of structures/organisations which could be costly to the public purse overall. Local authorities of course, more generally, have extensive experience of commissioning services of all types.

Monitor has not previously been responsible for social care services and more information is required on this in relation to the proposed role as economic regulator.

Statutory Health and Wellbeing Boards would on balance be preferable in order to support a duty to co-operate across agencies. We are unclear how the proposal for these Boards to have both commissioning/executive functions and scrutiny functions would work and believe this may dilute the role and power of scrutiny. It would also be helpful if the relationship with Children's Trust could be clarified. These Boards would only be a part of the joint arrangements for commissioning in a given area – the joint infrastructure will need to be reviewed and redesigned and it is important that there is plenty of local scope to do this.

As a local authority we would be seeking to support and collaborate with GP commissioners and would certainly want to pursue joint solutions to the provision of cost-effective commissioning support. We would also expect to lead a review of the joint arrangements locally, building upon the new roles within the NHS and taking the opportunity to take integration still further.

Cutting Bureaucracy and Improving Efficiency/Making it Happen

The White Paper is based upon considerable structural change. A strong theme in any public and stakeholder discussions has been a concern that further structural change will mean that ground is lost in continuing to improve health services and reduce health inequalities. De-layering the NHS has advantages which are articulated in the White Paper – it is important that the focus on partnership working, public involvement and delivering better outcomes is not lost however over the next 18-24 months as structural change is achieved. Considerable uncertainty for staff and the drop in morale of staff who have faced so much change already, is a significant factor and so any measures which can be built in to reduce risk in this area would be beneficial.

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	<i>Cllr Marco Cereste, Leader of the Council</i>	
Contact Officer(s):	<i>Helen Edwards, Solicitor to the Council</i>	Tel. 452533

NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Solicitor to the Council	Deadline date : 13 October 2010
1. Cabinet recommends to Council that it adopts the Strong Leader and Cabinet style of Executive Arrangements to take effect from May 2011.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a public consultation about changes to executive arrangements. This matter was considered by Council on 26th July 2010. The public consultation ends on 30th September and the matter is due to be considered by Council again at its meeting on 13th October 2010.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- (a) advise Cabinet of the response to the public consultation to date, and;
 - (b) obtain the views of Cabinet members on appropriate proposals to Council.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.5 "To review and recommend to Council changes to the Council's Constitution, protocols and procedure rules."

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. CHANGES TO EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced changes to executive arrangements. These have been introduced on a staggered basis, with different types of council having to make changes to their executive arrangements at specific times. Peterborough City Council is in the final tranche of

councils to make the changes and must change its executive arrangements before the end of December 2010, to take effect in May 2011.

4.2 The 2007 Act changes the models of executive arrangements permitted by the Local Government Act 2000 and under the 2007 Act local authorities are required to operate one of two models:

- Elected mayor and cabinet; or
- “New Style” leader and executive.

4.3 Peterborough City Council currently operates the old style Leader and Cabinet model established by the 2000 Act, but this is now abolished and is no longer available as an option when the transitional arrangements end in May 2011. The principal difference in the current arrangements and the new style is that the Leader would normally be elected for a 4 year period, instead of the current 1 year period.

4.4 Since the 2007 Act was introduced, the Coalition government announced its intention to make further changes, allowing Councils to return to the committee system should they wish to do so. Details of the changes are expected in the Localism Bill in the next Parliamentary session. A letter dated 7th July 2010 from the Department of Communities & Local Government advised that councils such as Peterborough must change its executive arrangements, but that it should do so with minimum expenditure on consultation and should remember that any governance arrangements introduced in May 2011 “may be further changed within a year or so”.

4.5 When Council considered the matter on 26th July 2010, it resolved to:

- a) Consult the public over the introduction of new executive arrangements during the period up to 30 September 2010;
- b) Undertake that consultation at minimal expense to the public, primarily using the Council’s website, in view of the intention of the new government to introduce further legislative changes;
- c) Confirms that, subject to the representations received from the public during the period of consultation, the Council’s preferred option is the new style, strong leader and cabinet model, as this model is the most similar to the Council’s existing arrangements and can be implemented with the least disruption until such time as the new government announces its proposals; and
- d) Receives a further report after the conclusion of the consultation period to enable it to take a formal decision over the introduction of new executive arrangements before the statutory deadline of 31 December 2010.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 In accordance with the Council decision, consultation has been carried out using the Council’s website. The consultation ends on 30th September and the results at that stage will be reported to the Council meeting on 13th October.

5.2 At the time of preparation of this report, there have been 42 responses to the consultation. Of those, 27 wish to adopt the Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet model, and 15 wish to adopt the Strong Leader and Cabinet model. A common theme in the responses that have included comments is that a Mayor who does not represent a specific ward is likely to be less involved in “politics” and may be more democratic.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 This matter will be reported to Full Council on 13th October, and it is anticipated that it will adopt one of the two models of executive arrangements permissible under the 2007 Act.
- 6.2 If Council decides to adopt the elected mayor and cabinet model, it will be necessary to hold an election to elect a mayor in May 2011, which will add additional expense. In the current financial climate, when the Council is obliged to reduce its spending, it is not recommended that it incurs additional expense to adopt the model of Directly Elected Mayor, when the options available to the Council are likely to change very soon after given the government's plans to introduce further legislation.
- 6.3 Cabinet will be aware that 27 of the 42 recipients to date have expressed a preference for the Directly Elected Mayor model. However, this is a very small percentage of the total electorate of 124,710 (0.036%) and although the views of those who have expressed a preference are important, the response is not so overwhelmingly in favour of the Directly Elected Mayor model that Cabinet should ignore the benefits of selecting a strong leader and cabinet model. This model can be adopted without the additional expense of an election, and leaves the Council with more flexibility to change its executive arrangements again when the government introduces further models.
- 6.4 It is therefore anticipated that Council will agree to adopt the new style leader and cabinet model, as this can be adopted with minimum cost. This method also allows further changes to be made, if new legislation is introduced, with minimum cost and disruption.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council has a legal obligation to change to one of the two models currently permissible, by December 2010.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Adopt the Elected Mayor and Cabinet model: this is not recommended as the Council would need to incur the cost of holding an election for the position of elected mayor. Also, a mayor would be elected for a period of 4 years and this may limit the Council's ability to take advantage of additional changes to executive arrangements which are anticipated in the Governemnt's Localism Bill this autumn.
- 8.2 Retain status quo: this option has been rejected, because the Council's current executive arrangements of the old style leader and cabinet model are no longer valid after December 2010. If the Council does not select one of the two models available, the Secretary of State will impose one of the two models.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Legal : All legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

Financial : The strong leader and executive model can be adopted without cost. The Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet model would require an election, which would

take place on the same day as the city council elections, the parliamentary referendum, and the council tax referendum. Additional polling clerks would be needed for the larger stations, and the count for the council tax referendum and Mayoral referendum would be held on the Friday. It is assumed that the Friday count would be held at the Town Hall with no additional costs for venue. If the person elected as Mayor was also elected as a city councillor at the same time, he or she would have to step down creating a vacancy, which would then necessitate a by-election for the vacant local council seat. By-election costs shown below are based on an average ward with 4 polling stations.

The Cabinet Office would expect us to split the costs of polling stations between all elections/referendums being held on the same day reducing the amount that we could claim for the cost of the referendum. This means that we may only be able to claim 25% of the cost of running 63 polling stations and one third on 19 polling stations.

Estimated costs of adopting the Directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet model are therefore:

Ballot paper costs:	£ 7,300
Postal votes:	£ 19,000
Postal vote opening:	£ 3,600
Poll cards:	£ 2,200
Postage:	£ 30,000
Additional poll clerks:	£ 3,900
Additional ballot boxes:	£ 5,000
Referendum claim reduction:	£ 20,000
Friday Count:	£ 4,500
By-election:	£ 8,000
TOTAL:	£103,500

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	<i>Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</i>	
Contact Officer(s):	<i>Helen Edwards, Solicitor to the Council</i> <i>Sally Crawford, Community Governance Manager</i>	Tel. 452533 Tel. 452339

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF FLETTON WARD TO FLETTON & WOODSTON WARD

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Solicitor to the Council	Deadline date : 13 October 2010
1. Cabinet recommends to Council that it agrees to consult all appropriate persons on the proposed change of name for Fletton Ward to Fletton & Woodston Ward.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a request from Councillors Lee, Benton and Serluca, city councillors for Fletton Ward, who have been approached by residents to change the name of Fletton Ward to Fletton & Woodston Ward to reflect the fact that Fletton ward is made up of the Fletton and Woodston areas. There are no proposals to change any ward boundaries.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Cabinet recommends that Council agrees to go out to consultation on the proposed change of name for Fletton ward
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.2; To promote the Council's role as community leader, giving a 'voice' to the community in its external relations at local, regional and international level, and fostering good working relationships with the Council's partner organisations, Parish Councils and the relevant authorities for Police, Fire, Probation and Magistrates' Courts Services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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- 3.1 To ensure that any agreed name change can be implemented prior to the 2011 election it is intended to carry out the required consultation between mid October 2010 and mid January 2011 so that a recommendation can be brought to Council via a specially convened meeting prior to the ordinary meeting on 23 February 2011.

4. CHANGE TO THE NAME OF FLETTON WARD

- 4.1 Under Section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities may change the name of its electoral areas provided the name of the area is not protected. The Electoral Commission has confirmed that Fletton is not protected.
- 4.2 To change the name of a ward (electoral area) a resolution must be passed by Council, by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 4.3 The Council must not pass such a resolution unless it has taken 'reasonable steps to consult such persons it considers appropriate on the proposed name'.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation with appropriate persons will be carried out via the Website, Media and appropriate neighbourhood/community meetings.
- 5.2 It is also proposed to give residents the opportunity to express an interest in the creation of a parish council in the area which may result in a community governance review.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The response to the consultation will be reported to Council at a specially convened meeting prior to the ordinary meeting on 23 February 2011.
- 6.2 Council will be recommended to make its decision based on the outcome of the consultation.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Council has a legal obligation to consult with appropriate persons about proposed changes to the names of electoral areas.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no alternative options in order to change the name of an electoral area.

9 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There may be minimal costs arising from the consultation and in officer time carrying out statutory procedures.

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)
Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
29 September 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director Strategic Resources Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance	Tel. 452398 Tel. 384564

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12 TO 2015/16

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Executive Director Strategic Resources	Deadline date : Cabinet
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Members note the potential impact of the state of national public finances on the Council's future grant settlements and its implications for the medium term financial strategy 2. That Members approve plans to consult with Scrutiny and Stakeholders on the medium term financial strategy earlier (one month) than previous years, reflecting the scale of the challenge facing the Council. 3. That Members approve the approach that is proposed for the budget process incorporating the medium term financial strategy (MTFS). 4. That Members approve the grant scenarios for departments to enable them to finalise options for financial years 2011/12 through to and including 2015/16 for further consideration. 5. That Members note that proposals will need to be considered for implementation during the current financial year to address the grant reductions announced for 2010/11. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following approval by the Corporate Management Team.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report comes to Cabinet as part of the council's agreed process for integrated finance and business planning. It continues the multi-year approach to budgeting to help plan for the financial challenges ahead. The drivers continue to be meeting the council's priorities by creating a sustainable budget strategy whilst responding to an uncertain future in local government funding.

2.2 The council's agreed Annual Budget Framework requires Cabinet to consider the council's budget and financial strategy and to set provisional cash limits for the forthcoming year.

2.3 The purpose of this report is to:

- update Members on the likely financial situation of the council over the next five years, and to illustrate the possible impact on the Council of the poor national public finance position
- to outline the approach to the budget process and budget consultation
- to outline a range of grant scenarios to enable each department to work to in preparing the budget options for each of the years 2011/12 to 2015/16.

2.4 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 which states to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic executive functions within the council's major policy and budget framework and lead the council's overall improvement programme to deliver excellent services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	Yes	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	29 September 2010
Date for relevant Council Meeting	23 February 2011	Date for submission to Government department	March 2010

4. OVERVIEW AND FUTURE BUDGET PROSPECTS

4.1 At its meeting in February 2010, the Council adopted the five year budget for the years 2010 – 2015, assuming a grant freeze for future years. In setting this budget, the Council recognised the uncertainty of the future of government funding and that it may need to take action within the year to respond to this. It was also recognised that planning for future years was likely to need to commence before the council's usual budget setting process outlined within the constitution.

4.2 Following the change in Government in May 2010, local government funding is being reduced in 2010/11 by £1.2bn nationally to contribute to addressing the difficult national financial picture and deficit. The impact for the council is the loss of £2.4m of revenue grant and £2.3m of capital grant, as shown below. This loss of nearly £5m must be tackled in the current financial year.

	Loss of Grant – Revenue (£m)	Loss of Grant – Capital (£m)
Area Based Grant	1.8	
Housing Planning and Delivery Grant	0.5	
Local Area Business Growth Incentive	0.1	
Transport		1.2
Children Services		1.1
TOTAL	2.4	2.3

In addition, the Government have halted the Building Schools for the Future programme. This was expected to provide a contribution to a £100m programme for Peterborough schools. The contribution expected from Government equates to £46m and it will not be known until the Spending Review what the final outcome of any resultant school programme will be (note that this excludes the work for Ormiston Bushfield Academy that has been confirmed).

- 4.3 In the emergency budget held in June 2010, the Chancellor also announced that central government departments should prepare themselves for a 25% real terms reduction in grants over the next four years. These departments in turn provide the majority of funding to local government. It has also been suggested that departments have been told to model the impact of a 40% grant reduction to contribute towards reducing the country's overall deficit. It has become clear that public sector funding in most areas will face significant reductions in future years.
- 4.4 The Government has announced that the Spending Review will be published on 20th October 2010. This will provide an indication of central government department expenditure limits. It is hoped that at this stage the picture will be clearer for local government, although the actual local government finance settlement will not be known until early December. As such it not pragmatic to allocate and approve control totals for departments but to work on several budget model scenarios in preparation for the Spending Review announcement and local government settlement. At this stage we expect that the settlement announced for local government will be for two years.
- 4.5 Several budget scenarios on the impact of future funding levels have been modelled to assist decision making in setting the budget for 2011/12 and provisional budgets for the following four years. The schedule attached at appendix 1 provides the current level of the grants that the Council receives. It remains very difficult to predict the precise impact on the Council's future grant position and therefore the council has based funding scenarios on the announcement made by the Chancellor earlier this year, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 above. The following impacts would arise from the scenarios indicated:

	Scenario	Possible Grant reduction 2011/12	Possible Grant Reduction 2015/16
1	25% real terms reduction in grant funding – equal distribution per annum	£8.6m	£25.9m
2	As scenario 1 above but with some front loading	£10.6m	£25.9m
4	40% real terms reduction in grant funding – equal distribution per annum	£12.1m	£40.1m

- 4.6 It must also be stressed that these scenarios assume a level of reduced grant funding from central government and do not take into account further cost pressures which may arise or existing future year deficits within the existing medium term financial strategy (MTFS). The existing MTFS already assumed a grant freeze in future years given that the final year of confirmed funding was 2010/11.
- 4.7 It is assumed that any changes to all school related grants (e.g. Dedicated School Grant) will be ring fenced within schools and do not directly impact on the council's available resources. However, schools will not be immune from the grant reductions and are likely to see a reduction in their funding in future years.
- 4.8 As the cuts continue to bite in future years, doing nothing is not an option and it is imperative that the council can bring forward proposals now to reduce the impact of grant reductions in future years.
- 4.9 The Council will need to tackle this challenging position, whilst maintaining its commitment to meeting priorities and ensuring community needs are met longer term. To do so it will be necessary to undertake the following work streams:

- I. Review of expenditure modelling the impact of 25-40% cuts on funding levels;
- II. Potential of passporting reductions in ring-fenced specific grants on a pound for pound basis;
- III. Review of efficiencies and bringing forward proposals from future years;
- IV. Review of service levels, fees and charges;
- V. Review capital programme to release capacity;
- VI. Asset disposal plans accelerated where practical;
- VII. Review and ongoing challenge of projects;
- VIII. Review of the collection fund.

5. BUDGET SETTING APPROACH

5.1 The council continues to adopt an integrated approach to service and financial planning and will incorporate where appropriate changes to national policies and local priorities to ensure that the Council remains strategically well placed to support local business and communities. The Council will continue to be an integral partner with other public bodies within the area in which it operates.

5.2 It is anticipated that the process will have two distinct stages (with discussions regarding the impact on priorities, performance and business plans underpinning all stages):

- I. Departments will finalise developing options for closing the gap between expenditure and income during October. Where possible, proposals will be brought forward to also tackle the 2010/11 government grant reductions that have been implemented since formal approval of the budget last February (as outlined in para 4.2). Cabinet has specific delegated responsibility under part 3, section 3 of the constitution to ensure the council spends within its available resources.

3.2.7 To be responsible for the Council's overall budget and determine action required to ensure that the overall budget remains within the total cash limit.

- II. These proposals will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting of 8th November. The budget will then be consulted upon to seek views from the public, businesses, Members, partners, unions, staff and other stakeholders prior to the budget being approved in February 2011, ensuring that decisions made reflect these community views. The consultation process has been brought forward by one month in light of the scale of the challenge the council is facing.

5.3 Although setting the budget will be challenging, emphasis remains on setting a budget that ensures priorities can be delivered and as such, early engagement by stakeholders is crucial. Therefore the Cabinet is extending the usual consultation period by bringing forward the consultation by one month. This will allow maximum opportunity for stakeholders to engage in a very challenging budget setting process.

6. SETTING OF PROVISIONAL REVENUE CASH LIMITS AND CONTROL TOTALS

- 6.1 Cabinet is required to consider the overall cash limits for the council each year, in line with the constitution. It is too early to predict with any certainty the council's overall cash limit and control totals as highlighted earlier in this report. Instead the council are working with scenarios of varying levels of grant cuts across all Specific Grants, Area Based Grant and the Revenue Support Grant. Appendix 1 provides a list of grants. Cabinet are asked to consider the grant scenarios as part of the budget discussions. The scenario will be refined following the Spending Review.
- 6.2 The assumptions used for modelling purposes with regards to council tax assume implementation of the coalition government proposal to freeze council tax in 2011/12, increasing by 2.5% per annum thereafter as reflected in the current medium term financial strategy. It must be stressed that this is solely for the purposes of illustrating possible scenarios, and does not reflect a planned level at this stage. Further decisions will be required by Cabinet to establish what is an acceptable option to consult with the public on, well before any final decisions next year.
- 6.3 As well as the grant scenarios, Departments will be issued with budget assumptions to allow them to develop options for consideration. The key assumptions are:

Key Assumptions:

1. Revenue Support Grant, Specific Grants and Area Based Grants are subject to grants cuts as modelled.
2. The Dedicated Schools Grant assumes matching expenditure within the key figures statement. Any reduction in grant would automatically reduce school expenditure and would not impact on the Council's budget / surplus figures.
3. Pay inflation has been assumed at 0.0% for 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013,14 with 1.0% increase 2014/15 and 1.5% increase 2015/16
General inflation has been included at 2% per annum.
Fees and charges has been included at 2.5% per annum.
4. The Council Tax Base figures shown above are in line with the latest estimates for 2010/11 with a 1% increase in growth per annum assumed for future years
5. Interest rates used are based on the latest information available from our treasury advisors. The table below shows the interest rates received on deposits and payable on borrowing

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Investments	1.37%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
New Borrowing	4.90%	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%

- 6.4 The figures will be updated accordingly during the budget setting process, before final approval by Council in setting the budget in February.
- 6.5 The budgets that departments prepare in line will contain only inflation. Any additional adjustment for service changes, statutory activity changes (including new and changing grant streams), savings over £75,000 and other resource realignment will be considered corporately.

7. CAPITAL PROCESS

- 7.1 The planning process will include a review of the current capital programme and the calculation of the capital requirement in each year of the plan. This will include an assessment of likely levels of resources including capital receipts and asset disposals.
- 7.2 The capital programme will not be immune to reductions in government grant funding and work will be undertaken to scale back or delay the existing programme and consideration of new programme options without compromising the external funding opportunities available and the council's ability to deliver strategic priorities. This review will need to be undertaken on a scheme by scheme basis.
- 7.3 As part of the review the programme will assess the impact of implementing a scenario of between 25% and 40% reductions in resources available. Reducing or slowing down capital spend will assist in reducing the overall budget gap forecast in earlier scenarios by reducing the costs of borrowing to fund the capital programme corporately.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RISK

- 8.1 Key risks have been considered and will continue to be monitored throughout the budget setting process and next financial year. Key risks identified include:
- The impact of the uncertainty of local government funding levels in future years. Budget modelling on scenarios in line with views already in the public domain including a 40% real terms reduction in funding levels have been undertaken. Planning at this level of funding reduction has commenced early to ensure that the council is in a position to act quickly;
 - Resource implications on spending and saving proposals are considered in terms of the council's overall priorities, finances and human resource implications. Detailed budget analysis and human resource analysis has been undertaken for each budget area to support any decision made in preparation for consultation;
 - Growth – The Council's ability to meet growth within Peterborough in future years could be compromised if sufficient budget resources to meet these priorities are not addressed. This will be addressed by a robust challenge process during the budget setting period.

9. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 9.1 Following approval by Cabinet, Departments will develop budget proposals in line with the funding scenarios for consideration at the next stage of the budget setting process.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Constitution requires Cabinet to outline its approach to developing the MTFs. The challenges facing the Council mean it is sensible to publish these proposals earlier than usual to allow extra time for consultation and discussion on these proposals. These steps will help to ensure that the Council achieves a balanced budget, aligned to corporate priorities.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 It is apparent that some Councils are waiting until the Local government settlement is known before releasing proposals. Whilst this would mean greater certainty over funding levels for the council, this would reduce the time available for consultation and discussion, and so proposals will be developed to meet the resource scenarios outlined.

Appendix 1 – Grants

Type of Grant	Confirmed Grant 2010/11 £k
Dedicated Schools Grant	118,113
Other School Grants	20,902
Revenue Support Grant	77,014
Area Based Grant (Post Cut)	13,554
Specific Grants	19,455
Housing Benefits	71,766
TOTAL	320,804

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director Strategic Resources Steven Pilsworth, Head of Corporate Services	Tel. 452398 Tel. 384564

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FINAL OUTTURN 2009/10

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : <i>Executive Director Strategic Resources</i>	Deadline date : September 2010
Cabinet is recommended to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the final outturn position (based on expenditure at the end of March 2010) on the Council's revenue and capital budget; 2. Note the performance against the prudential indicators; 3. Note the performance on treasury management activities, payment of creditors in services and collection performance for debtors, local taxation and benefit overpayments; and 4. Note the financial uncertainty of local government financing in future years and how this could impact the Council. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1. This report is submitted to Cabinet as a monitoring item. This report has been discussed by Audit Committee on 28 June 2010 as part of their approval of the Statement of Accounts.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the final financial performance for revenue and capital at 31 March 2010.
- 2.2. This report also contains performance information on treasury management activities, the payment of creditors in services and collection performance for debtors, local taxation and benefit overpayments.
- 2.3. This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.7 "To be responsible for the Council's overall budget and determine action required to ensure that the overall budget remains within the total cash limit".

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. FINAL OUTTURN 2009/10

4.1. Corporate Overview

- 4.1.1. The financial year 2009/10 has been a challenging financial year with an array of one off and emerging pressures since Full Council approved the revenue and capital budget requirement for 2009/10 in February 2009. Early in the financial year, an analytical review concluded that high level risks and issues would require careful monitoring, review and appropriate management action to ensure that the financial position of the Council remained stable. Specific risks and issues included:
- i. Continuing reduced trend in income streams such as planning fee income, rent and leases, fees and charges, sponsorship and advertising income;
 - ii. Demand led budgets such as looked after children, concessionary fares, revenue and benefits services;
 - iii. Emerging 'one off' pressures;
 - iv. The continued ability to meet the Council's ambitious savings programme;
 - v. The effective management of the overall capital programme to meet the Council's longer term objectives both within financial and people resources; and
 - vi. The Council's ability to generate capital receipts through asset disposal, mainly due to the slow down of development during the recession.
- 4.1.2. The external influences such as the ongoing recession, the impact of 'Baby P' on Children's Social Care budgets, the slow down of development and growth and the uncertainty of future local government funding underwent due diligence, particularly through the latter part of the financial year, incorporating outcomes into a five year financial plan from 2010. The Council is not alone in experiencing these external influences and along with all other local authorities and business the Council has been negatively affected by the recession and its consequences.
- 4.1.3. The Council has remained in good stead, proactively managing risks and issues within departments and corporately as set out previously to Corporate Management Team and Cabinet in earlier reports.
- 4.1.4. In summary, the Council has been able to manage the expectations as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) with no detrimental impact to services, such as service cuts, has taken remedial action where required to mitigate pressures including addressing ongoing pressures within setting the financial strategy for 2010-2015 and has ensured that the financial position of the Council has remained stable.
- 4.1.5. The financial position of the Council going forward in future years is likely to be more challenging, having been recognised by the budget deficits in the current MTFS from 2011/12 onwards. However, since the budget was set, a general election has changed the country's political landscape and inevitably brought further uncertainty for local government financing such as:
- i. Coalition government announcing £6bn cuts to local government during 2010/11, including cuts of £1.165bn for local government;
 - ii. Impact of the emergency budget to be announced on 22 June 2010, including grant cuts in future of 25% in real terms (as opposed to the grant freeze assumed in the MTFS); and
 - iii. Continuing to deliver Business Transformation.
- 4.1.6. An initial assessment of the possible financial impact of these issues and the approach that the Council will follow in tackling them is considered separately on the agenda.
- 4.1.7. The Council remains committed to its strategy in delivering service efficiencies and improvements using a proactive approach to managing Council finances and delivering a longer term financial plan covering a rolling five year cycle.

4.2. Financial Report - Revenue

4.2.1 The Council's overall revenue position is £364k under spent, against a budget of £151,273k, an improvement of £1,192k since the adopted outturn was reported to Cabinet. This is in part due to the robust mechanisms put in place to mitigate the emerging pressures such as reduced income streams and demand led services, utilising the Council's reserves to meet one off costs as agreed during the setting of the MTFS 2010–2015 and slowing down non-priority spend or delaying projects and initiatives with no detriment to the MTFS. Alongside these actions, Children's Services and Operations successfully delivered their action plans. All risks were corporately managed over the last quarter of the financial year.

Key Movements	£000	£000
Adopted Outturn		828
Corporate Solutions to Reduce Pressure	-71	
Service Action Plans to Reduce Pressure	-1,431	
Capitalisation of Redundancy Costs	-328	
Other Pressures and Management Actions	638	
Net Movement		-1,192
Final Outturn		-364

4.2.2 The main changes since probable outturn was published:

- i. Reduced requirement to meet one off costs associated with re-opening Hereward College and the provision set aside for grants. Although there is no impact on the Council's revenue position, this has improved the Council's overall balances by £658k;
- ii. Receipt of additional Housing Planning and Delivery Grant;
- iii. Contingency budgets totalling £647k earmarked to meet specific one off pressures no longer required;
- iv. The Council has benefited from a redundancy capitalisation direction granted by central government to meet the costs associated with statutory redundancy costs totalling £487k which has contributed to the improvement in the Council's overall balances;
- v. Departments implementing local action plans such as vacancy management, freezing non business critical spend and delaying projects or initiatives in the short term with no consequences on service delivery.

4.2.3 In accordance with financial guidance, the Council has set aside specific reserves to meet commitments and current issues to mitigate risk exposure to the Council financially during 2010/11. Included within the above figures, £450k has been set aside to meet the costs associated with the formation of the Leisure Trust as presented to Cabinet during March 2010 and £400k has been set aside to contribute towards implementing the recommendations of the recent Children's Social Care inspection.

4.2.4 The Council has taken a balanced view of the above actions and understanding of its cost drivers, in particular those deemed to be one off and those continuing costs that would not be sustainable to manage through budget monitoring alone. Continuing costs have been considered as part of setting the MTFS.

4.2.5 The under spend is summarised in the table below at departmental level. A further breakdown is included in Appendix A.

4.2.6 The Dedicated Schools Grant shows an under spend of £774k against a budget of £131,395k. Schools Forum is responsible for decisions related to the Dedicated Schools Grant. This has been included for information purposes only. In accordance with accounting guidance, the under spend has been carried forward to next financial year:

Adopted Outturn £(k)	Final Revenue Outturn Position	Annual Budget £(k)	Final Outturn £(k)	Outturn Variance £(k)
405	Deputy Chief Executive	6,746	6,282	-464
-66	Legal & Democratic Services	3,697	3,376	-321
0	Children's Services	45,399	45,446	47
316	City Services	15,794	15,864	70
650	Operations	24,833	25,240	407
-477	Strategic Resources*	15,286	15,183	-103
0	Adult Social Care	39,518	39,518	0
828	General Fund Total	151,273	150,909	-364
	Transfer to Capacity Building Reserve			364
-828	Corporate Mitigations			
-2,173	(Deficit) to General Fund Balance			-2,242
6,000	General Fund Balance Brought Forward			6,000
3,827	General Fund Balance Carried Forward			3,758
228	Dedicated School Grant Total	131,395	130,621	-774

*Excludes re-profiling of VAT shelter income expected from Cross Keys. The shortfall will be met from the General Fund working balance as per the current MTFS with the working balance being replenished in future years.

4.3. Financial Report - Reserves

- 4.3.1 In setting the 2009/10 budget, the level of Council balances was considered sufficient in meeting the MTFS recognising the requirement to review the balances to ensure delivery of the Council's priorities. As part of setting the MTFS 2010/11 consideration was given to a five year financial review and in the context of uncertainty leading up to a general election and future funding arrangements. Subsequently the next table has been updated to reflect the current position going forward over the next five years.
- 4.3.2 The overall level of balances assumes that the under spend of £364k reported within revenue outturn position is transferred to the capacity building reserve. Although the current reported position is healthier than that reported earlier in the year, it is anticipated to diminish over the next five years due to some balances being specific to costs that will be incurred over the next five years.
- 4.3.3 The capacity building reserve is likely to be fully utilised in future years as pressures emerge and the uncertainty around local government financing. The five year overview assumes a position before any detailed work has been undertaken with regards to the £6bn cuts impact assessment.

Council Balances	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	Balance at 31.03.10 £000	Estimated Balance at 31.03.11 £000	Estimated Balance at 31.03.12 £000	Estimated Balance at 31.03.13 £000	Estimated Balance at 31.03.14 £000	Estimated Balance at 31.03.15 £000	Estimated Balance at 31.03.16 £000
Departmental Reserves Total	3,430	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Property Portfolio Reserves	6,000	4,484	3,374	2,563	1,877	1,441	1,005
Iceland Reserve	838	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provision of Grants Reserve	250	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parish Council Burial Ground Reserve	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Insurance Reserve	2,408	2,308	2,208	2,108	2,008	1,908	1,808
Capacity Building Reserve*	2,557	2,037	2,242	2,242	2,242	2,242	2,242
Schools Capital Expenditure Reserve	1,307	1,307	1,307	1,307	1,307	1,307	1,307
Corporate Reserves Total	6,308	6,828	5,618	4,707	3,921	3,385	2,849
General Fund Working Balance	3,758	4,712	5,515	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Total Reserves	20,584	16,024	14,507	13,270	11,798	10,826	9,854

*NB - The capacity building reserve as at 31 March 2010 includes the under spend of £364k
The capacity building reserve assumes £2m 2010/11 and £205k 2011/12 MTFP capacity bids will be fully utilised

4.3.4 The following table provides a summary of reserve balances since the estimated position was published within the MTFs:

	MTFS (Full Council) £k	Net in year Movement £k	New £k	Actual Balance £k
Summary of Balances (Movement between MTFs and actual position 31 March 2010)				
General Fund Working Balance	3,827	-69	0	3,758
Earmarked Reserves:				
- Insurance	2,341	-13	80	2,408
- Capacity Building Reserve	247	2,778	-468	2,557
- Departmental (Includes Peterborough College of Adult Education reserve)	1,728	-215	1,917	3,430
- Schools Capital Expenditure Reserve	2,080	-1,416	643	1,307
- Commercial Property Portfolio	0	0	6,000	6,000
- Provision for Grants	0	0	250	250
- Iceland Reserve	0	0	838	838
- Parish Council Burial Ground Reserve	42	-6	0	36
Total Reserves	10,265	1,059	9,260	20,584

- i. General Fund Working Balance – As reported previously to Cabinet and in alignment with the MTFs, this has reduced from the £6m working balance due to re-phasing of income received from Cross Keys now expected over future years. Based on the information on income streams from Cross Keys, it is expected that this fund will be fully replenished during 2012/13, although future year estimates are dependent on refreshing Cross Keys business plan;
- ii. Insurance reserve - A year end adjustment has been made to the accounts;
- iii. Capacity Building Reserve – The improved position is the result of releasing in excess of £1.4m from the schools capital expenditure reserve in accordance with accounting regulations, £658k previously set aside to meet one off costs associated with the re-opening of Hereward College and provision for grants, a release of provision no longer required, the revenue under spend of £364k and the release of miscellaneous reserves requests that were previously set aside to meet pressures during 2009/10;
- iv. Schools Capital Expenditure Reserve – This reserve is earmarked for schools and managing future year's capital spend through the Council's capital programme. As the Council meets schools capital spend through the capital programme, it enables the release of funds within this reserve to be transferred to the capacity building reserve for Council use. There is no impact on school funding.
- v. Commercial Property Portfolio – This reserve has been created to meet the future costs associated with the Council's property portfolio following the recession and continuing impact of void and vacant properties. The balance is committed over the next five years to meet

- costs and will therefore be run down gradually over the next five years. It is not expected to incur a burden for council tax payers;
- vi. Provision for Grants – As reported to Cabinet previously, this is the residual amount now required to meet the outcome of audit certification of grants; and
 - vii. Iceland Reserves – The Council had a total of £3m invested in two Icelandic owned banks which went into administration in October 2008. A reserve has been set up to meet the costs of the loss based on the best estimate as at May 2010, an improvement from earlier in the financial year. Potentially, the cost to the Council could reduce further as work is ongoing to agree a final recovery rate and it is therefore prudent to create a reserve to meet the final shortfall.

4.4. Financial Report - Capital

- 4.4.1 The capital programme for 2009/10 as agreed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was £78.9m. The final slippage of schemes from 2008/09 was £26.3m. This is mainly the result of delays with projects and new capital being added since the MTFS which resulted in a revised capital programme as at 1 April 2009 of £105.2m.
- 4.4.2 Throughout 2009/10, the capital programme has been refreshed to reflect the current position and the revised budget of £67.4m - shown in the next table - is after slippage and deferral of projects into future financial years has been applied. A total of £37.8m of capital schemes has either slipped or been deferred which includes the Waste project, Hampton Secondary School and Affordable Housing.
- 4.4.3 The capital programme is financed through borrowing, capital receipts, grants and contributions. Given that the capital programme has reduced through slippage and deferral of projects this has reduced the amount of borrowing originally anticipated since setting the MTFS. However, if the schemes continue in future years, borrowing would still be required to fund these schemes and the revenue impact would need to be considered as part of refreshing the current MTFS.
- 4.4.4 Additionally, the Council was anticipating £6.4m in capital receipts to support the capital programme. The actual receipts received that can be applied to the capital programme have been lower £1,151k due to the general market conditions throughout the recession. It is noted that £5m of capital receipts has been contractually 'committed' subject to meeting conditions within the contracts. However this capital receipt income will not be expected now until during 2010/11 subject to satisfying the conditions imposed within the contracts. In accordance with accounting regulations, these capital receipts can only be applied to the capital programme once all of the conditions have been satisfied during the financial year in which they occur. Although the actual receipts have been lower, this has not been an issue due to the overall slippage within the capital programme.

Overall Position of the Capital Programme 2009/10 as at March 2010

Capital Programme by Directorate:	MTFS 2008 to 2010 £000	Revised 1st April 09 Budget £000	Revised budget at March 2010 £000	Actual Outturn £000
Adult Social Care	517	617	587	344
Deputy Chief Execs	10,323	13,342	968	926
Children's Services	27,225	37,896	25,449	19,403
City Services	1,958	3,503	1,879	2,053
Operations	25,043	31,728	21,511	21,185
Strategic Resources	13,796	18,158	17,070	17,923
Total Expenditure	78,862	105,244	67,464	61,834
Financed by:				
Grants & Contributions	27,438	47,858	34,588	33,223
Capital Receipts	5,020	9,347	524	524
Capital Receipts Set Aside	(4,734)	(4,734)	-	-
Right To Buy Receipts	1,820	1,820	627	627
Supported Borrowing	7,696	7,696	7,696	7,696
Borrowing	41,622	43,257	24,029	19,764
Total Resources - required	78,862	105,244	67,464	61,834

4.5. Financial Report – Treasury Management Activity for 2009/10

4.5.1 The Treasury Management Strategy was fully revised during the year to take into account the revision of the prudential code and the lessons learnt from the Icelandic Banks. The main objectives of the Strategy are to reduce the revenue cost of the Council's debt in the medium term, to seek to reschedule debt at the optimum time and to invest cash balances with dependable institutions at interest rates higher than the cost of borrowing.

4.5.2 In summary, therefore, the following actions were taken during 2009/10:

- i. Investments were placed in accordance with the restricted lending list implemented in October 2008 following the economic crisis. The current lending list ensures investments are secure but interest returns are low due to the limitation of institutions used and also the level of the bank base rate. However during 2009/10 the Council's investment performance has exceeded the benchmark by 1.35%. This is largely due to fixed term deposits placed in 2008/09 for one year at higher rates before the decline in interest rates over the last 18 months.
- ii. Investments were placed for short periods to cover cash flow deficits in anticipation of a rise in the bank base rate, a rise in market rates and an extension of the lending list to include all of the UK institutions included in the Treasury Strategy.
- iii. As borrowing rates continued to be higher than investment rates in 2009/10, the cash balances were used to finance the capital programme instead of borrowing. This has resulted in a fall in the overall investment balance held but has also saved on borrowing costs that extra long term borrowing would have incurred.

4.5.3 The 2009/10 treasury management activities are summarised as follows:

	Strategy	Action
a)	Exploit long-term funding opportunities at interest rate levels that are below short-term rates forecast / anticipated over the foreseeable future.	Borrowing has been avoided by running down the cash balances whilst borrowing costs remain higher than investment return

	Strategy	Action
b)	Consider rescheduling of fixed or variable rate loans to maximise interest rate savings and minimise the impact on Council budgets.	Consideration has been made to rescheduling debt however there have been no suitable opportunities to do this. The difference between the repayment rate and the rate of a new loan has not resulted in a net discount to the Council and no savings were to be made. The Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) is proposing to reduce the differential between loan borrowing rates and prepayment rates and this may lead to opportunities for rescheduling in the future
c)	Consider repayment of external loans or avoid new borrowings when it is in the best financial interest to do so.	As investment returns remained below the cost of borrowing during the financial year, cash balances were used to finance the capital programme and no new borrowing was required
d)	Invest with credit worthy organisations to limit exposure against loss.	The Council has continued with the lending list implemented in October 2008. Currently the Council only lends to the UK Government, local authorities and our own bank, Barclays.
e)	To achieve the optimum investment return commensurate with security, liquidity requirements (access to funds), debt management alternatives (avoidance of borrowings, premature repayments etc), if these would generate savings in the medium term.	Cash balances have been used to finance capital expenditure to minimise counterparty risk and as an alternative to diminishing investment returns. Even allowing for the non-performing Icelandic deposits, the Council's investments have yielded 1.77% compared to the benchmark of 0.42%

4.5.4 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Council's underlying need to borrow money in the long term for capital purposes. In accordance with the 2009 Statement of Recommended Practice (SoRP) this now includes the liability for the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreement.

4.5.5 Further information on the Council's capital financing arrangements can be found in the Prudential Indicators performance found in Appendix B.

4.5.6 In 2009/10 the CFR was:

Opening Capital Financing Requirement 1 April 2009	£000
New Capital Expenditure Financed by Borrowing	198,013
Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment	27,460
	(7,465)

4.6. Financial Report – Performance Monitoring

4.6.1 Performance monitoring information is shown in Appendix C.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1. Detailed reports have been discussed in Departmental Management Teams. This report has also been discussed by Audit Committee on 28 June 2010 as part of its approval of the Statement of Accounts.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

6.1. Cabinet notes the outturn position for the Council.

6.2. Cabinet notes the performance against the prudential indicators for the Council.

6.3. Cabinet notes the performance on treasury management activities, payment of creditors in services and collection performance for debtors, local taxation and benefit overpayments.

6.4. Cabinet notes the financial uncertainty of local government financing in future years and how this could impact the Council.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. This monitoring report for 2009/10 financial year is part of the process for producing the Statement of Accounts.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1. None required at this stage.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1. This report does not have any implications effecting legal, human rights act or human resource issues.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985).

Detailed monthly budgetary control reports prepared in Departments.

Adopted Outturn Variance £(k)		Annual Budget £(k)	Final Outturn Forecast £(k)	Outturn Variance £(k)
	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT			
-25	Chief Execs Department	431	422	-9
-66	Legal & Democratic Services	3,697	3,376	-321
113	Deputy Chief Executive Unit	2,196	2,078	-118
-91	Delivery	2,482	1,988	-494
369	Communications	854	1,050	196
-26	Strategic Improvement	394	283	-111
151	Human Resources	389	461	72
-86	Action Plan / Use of Balances	0	0	0
339	CHIEF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TOTAL	10,443	9,658	-785
	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES			
491	Resources, Commissioning and Performance	12,149	9,878	-2,271
204	Learning & Skills	7,245	7,855	610
-281	Family and Communities	7,279	6,570	-709
1347	Children's Social Care	18,726	21,143	2,417
-1761	Action Plan / Use of Balances	0	0	0
0	CHILDREN'S SERVICE TOTAL (GENERAL FUND)	45,399	45,446	47
	DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES			
-104	Building & Technical	-203	-117	86
-146	Street Scene & Facilities	506	322	-184
0	Property, Design and Maintenance	-246	-285	-39
0	Other Trading Activities and Business Support	2,056	2,248	192
273	Maintenance	13,616	13,384	-232
360	Westcombe	65	312	247
-67	Action Plan	0	0	0
316	CITY SERVICES TOTAL	15,794	15,864	70
	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS SERVICES			
93	Business Support	1,382	1,460	78
251	City Operations	-416	-399	17
522	Cultural Services	4,457	5,082	625
39	Directors Office	619	559	-60
-62	Environment and Transport	12,670	11,787	-883
1484	Neighbourhoods	4,740	5,253	513
453	Planning Services	1,381	1,498	117
292	Balancing - Shortfall	0	0	0
-2422	Action Plan / Use of Balances	0	0	0
650	OPERATIONS SERVICES TOTAL	24,833	25,240	407
	DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES			
0	Director's Office	262	115	-147
-78	Business Support	687	536	-151
3237	Corporate Services	11,384	10,499	-885
665	Strategic Property	-4,263	-3,526	737
17	Transactional Services	56	79	23
-81	Insurance	935	853	-82
21	Internal Audit	2	16	14
42	HR Payroll	347	374	27
-76	Procurement	-509	390	899
125	Business Transformation	2,761	2,454	-307
0	Waste Management	70	35	-35
-409	ICT	1,182	1,310	128
333	Customer Services	1,795	2,091	296
-28	Revenue and Benefits	577	23	-554
0	Trading Accounts	0	-66	-66
-4245	Corporate Pressures / Action Plan / Use of Balances	0	0	0
-477	STRATEGIC RESOURCES TOTAL	15,286	15,183	-103
	ADULT SOCIAL CARE TOTAL	39,518	39,518	0
828	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	151,273	150,909	-364
228	DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT TOTAL	131,395	130,621	-774

Prudential Indicators for 2009/10

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities provides a framework for local authority capital finance to ensure that:

- (a) capital expenditure plans are affordable,
- (b) all external borrowing and other long term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels;
- (c) treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with professional good practice.

In taking decisions in relation to (a) and (c) above, the local authority is accountable by providing a clear and transparent framework.

The Code requires each authority to set a range of Prudential Indicators for the next financial year and the two succeeding ones. During the financial year the Council operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's annual Treasury Management Strategy. The outturn for the Prudential Indicators for 2009-10 and where applicable the impact on 2010/11 are set out in this appendix.

The 2009 Statement of Recommended Practice (SoRP) introduced a new accounting policy with regards to how Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangements are accounted for. The new accounting policy results in PFI related assets being brought on to the Council's Balance Sheet, in the Council's case three secondary schools, which in turn impacts the Council's capital financing.

Performance against the following Prudential indicators are shown as originally estimated in the 2009/10 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and are revised for the impact of the PFI adjustment.

1. Indicator One: Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Treasury Management in the Public Services

The Council adopted the CIPFA Code of Treasury Management in the Public Services in 2002, and the revised code in February 2010. Treasury Management Practices (TMP's) have been established with advice from Sector Treasury Services and applied to the Council's treasury management activities.

2. Indicator Two: Estimates and actual Capital Expenditure 2009/10

	2009/10 Prudential Indicator £m	2009/10 Actual Expenditure £m
Capital Expenditure	78.9	61.8

This indicator is the estimated and actual capital expenditure for the year based on the Capital Programme for that period.

3. Indicator Three: Estimates of actual capital financing requirements and net borrowing

The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the Council's underlying need to borrow money in the long term for capital purposes. It is calculated from various capital balances in the Council's Balance Sheet.

	2009/10 £m	PFI £m	Revised 2009/10 £m
Prudential Indicator	185.4	50.0	235.4
Actual	168.0	50.0	218.0

4. Indicator Four: Affordability (1) Estimate of actual ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

The net revenue stream is the authority's net revenue budget funded from Council Tax and Government grants. The actual revenue financing was £264m, including DSG. Actual financing costs were £15m

	2009/10	PFI	Revised 2009/10
	%	%	%
Prudential Indicator	4.70	0.75	5.45
Actual	4.36	0.75	5.11

5. Indicator Five: Affordability (2) Estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax

This indicator is intended to show the impact of the Council's decisions about capital investment on the level of Council Tax required to support those decisions over the medium term.

The calculation of this indicator has been done on the basis of the amount of the capital programme that was financed from borrowing. The calculation is based on the interest assumption for borrowing that was included in the capital financing budget. The revenue costs are divided by the estimated Council Tax base for the year:

	2009/10	PFI	Revised 2009/10
	£	£	£
Prudential Indicator	20.93	-	20.93
Actual	18.06	-	18.06

The overall impact of the PFI arrangement for this Prudential Indicator is zero. This is because the change in accounting treatment has no additional impact on the Council's revenue expenditure.

6. Indicators Six: External Debt Prudential Indicators

The Authorised Limit represents the maximum amount the Council may borrow at any point in time in the year. It is set at a level the Council considers is "prudent". The indicator takes account of the capital financing requirement estimated at the start of each year, plus the expected net borrowing requirement for the year. This makes allowance for the possibility that the optimum time to do all borrowing may be early in the year. The limits also incorporated margins to allow for exceptional short-term movements in the Council's cash flow, changes to the timing of capital payments and fluctuations in the realisation of capital receipts.

It is ultra vires to exceed the Authorised Limit so this should be set to avoid circumstances in which the Council would need to borrow more money than this limit. However the Council can revise the limit during the course of the year.

"Other long term liabilities" include items that would appear on the balance sheet of the Council under that heading. For example, the capital cost of finance leases would be included.

The Operational Boundary is a measure of the day to day likely borrowing for the Council, whereas the Authorised Limit is a maximum limit. The code recognises that circumstances might arise when the boundary might be exceeded temporarily, but if this continues for a lengthy period then it ought to be investigated, as a potential symptom of a more serious financial problem.

	2009/10 Prudential Indicator £m	2009/10 Actual- exc. PFI £m	Revised 2009/10 Actual inc. PFI £m
Authorised Limit for external debt -			
borrowing	250.0	134.5	134.5
other long term liabilities	4.0	1.0	51.0
Total	254.0	135.50	185.50
Operational Boundary for external debt -			
borrowing	195.0	134.5	134.5
other long term liabilities	3.0	1.0	51.0
Total	198.0	135.5	185.5

7. Indicator Seven: Variable interest rate exposure

This indicator places an upper limit on the total amount of net borrowing (borrowing less investment) which is at variable rates subject to interest rate movements. The intention is to keep the variable rate borrowing below 25% of the total gross borrowing.

The limit is expressed as the value of total borrowing less investments

	2009/10 Prudential Indicator £m	2009/10 Actual £m
Upper limit for variable rate exposure	46.0	0

8. Indicator Eight: Fixed Interest rate exposures

This indicator places an upper limit on the total amount of net borrowing which is at fixed rates secured against future interest rate movements. The upper limit (100%), allows flexibility in applying a proportion of the investment portfolio to finance new capital expenditure. It also reflects a position where the great majority of borrowing is at fixed rate which provides budget certainty. The upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure was set to allow for flexibility in applying a proportion of the investment portfolio to finance new capital expenditure. It also reflected a position where the great majority of borrowing was at fixed rates to provide budget certainty.

	2009/10 Prudential Indicator £m	2009/10 Actual £m
Upper limit for fixed rate exposure		
Borrowing	250.0	134.5
Investment	-	(13.4)
Total	250.0	121.10

9. Indicator Nine: Prudential limits for the maturity structure of borrowing

The prudential limits have been set with regard to the maturity structure of the Council's borrowing, and reflected the relatively beneficial long term rates that were expected to be available over the next few years. The limits were as follows:

Period	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual
	Estimate	Estimate	
Under 12 months	30%	0%	13%
1 - 2 years	30%	0%	1%
2 - 5 years	80%	0%	0%
5 - 10 years	80%	0%	0%
over 10 years	100%	10%	86%

10. Indicator Ten: Total Investments for periods longer than 364 days

Authorities are able to invest for longer than 364 days, which can be advantageous if higher rates are available; however it would be unwise to lend a disproportionate amount of cash for too long a period particularly as the Council must maintain sufficient working capital for its operational needs

Principal sums invested for over 364 days (per maturity date)	2009/10 Prudential Indicator £m	2009/10 Actual £m
Upper limit	25.0	-

PERFORMANCE MONITORING DATA

Treasury Management

Treasury management activities cover borrowings raised to finance the Council's capital expenditure and investment of its cash balances. The Council's external debt as at 31 March 2010, which is all at fixed rate, was £134.5 million at an average rate of 4.57%. This average rate can be compared to the Bank Base Rate, 0.5% from 5 March 2009, and interest receivable on investments. The actual total external debt of £134.5 million can be compared against the Council's Authorised Limit for borrowing of £250 million which must not be exceeded, and the Operational Boundary (maximum working capital borrowing indicator) of £195 million.

At 31 March 2010 external investments totalled £12.2 million and have yielded interest at an average rate of 1.77% in the financial year 09-10. This amount excludes the Icelandic investments. The performance of the investments is above the target benchmark 7 day rate of 0.42%. This high performance of interest returns will decline as the investments made before the bank base rate cut to 0.50% mature and are replaced.

Prompt Payment (Invoices paid within 30 Days)

The cumulative performance (93.80%) for the prompt payment of invoices for 2009/10 in comparison to the cumulative performance for 2008/09 is shown in Table 3.

Table 1 : Performance on Borrowings 2009/10

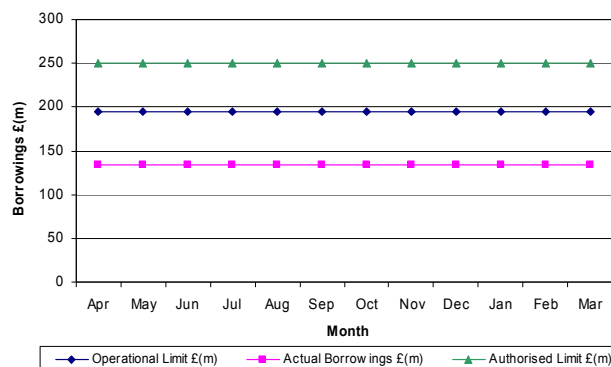


Table 2 : Performance External Investments 2009/10

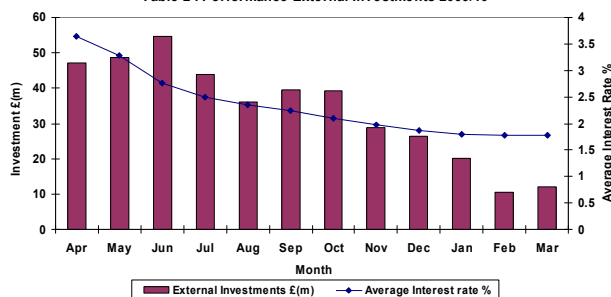
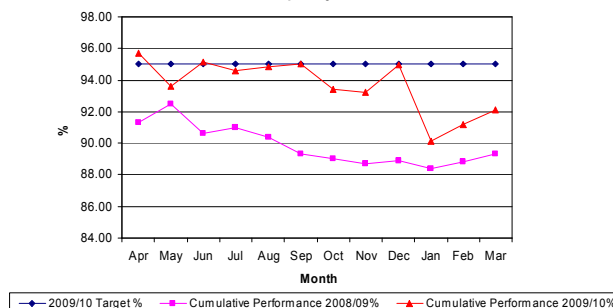


Table 3 : Prompt Payment of Invoices



Sundry Debt Performance

The outstanding sundry debt figure for debt in excess of 6 months old at the end of 2009/10 is £3.5m. The impact of the recession has resulted in delayed payment of invoices by customers, non payment or rescheduling of the amount due into instalments. During 2009/10 the debt function has been overhauled and centralised from April 2010 to improve debt management. Action is currently ongoing to identify uncollectable aged debt and process these for write off in appropriate cases.

The total amount of write offs completed during 2009/10 totalled £6,172. Due to a revision of debt management processes, debt write off has remained static. However, it is anticipated that the centralised debt processes will identify older debt for write off and therefore the Council's debt provision has been revised to reflect uncollectable aged debt based upon best estimate.

Housing Benefit Overpayments

Table 6 shows the total amount of housing benefit overpayments recovered against the target rate of 45%.

Work continues in this area to improve current performance, the Council carried £1.914m over at 31 March 2009 and raised a further £1.757m of overpayment debt during the year. Of the total debt £1.327m has been recovered this year, equating to 37.79% of in year identified and previous year balances collected. This is an increase of 0.13% on the collection rate for 2008/09. The benefit caseload increased by 1,338 during 2009/10 the largest increase being in working age claimants. These claim types give rise to a larger number of overpayments due to the greater number of changes to entitlement that are recorded for this group.

Table 4 : Sundry Debt Performance

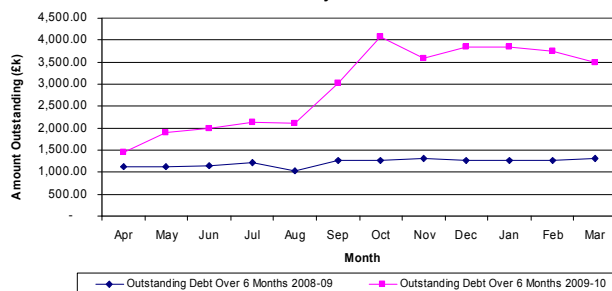


Table 5 : Amount Written Off

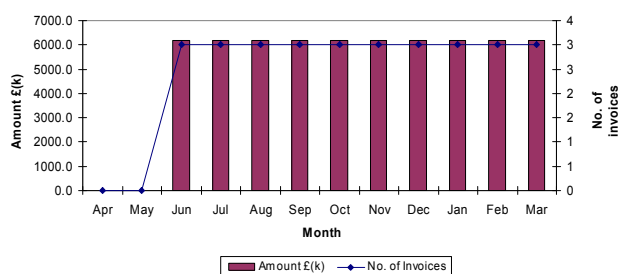
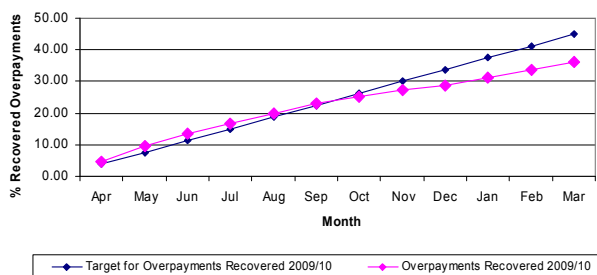


Table 6 : Housing Benefit Overpayments Recovered



Council Tax and Business Rates Collection

The following tables 7 and 8 show the performance for collection of Council Tax and Business Rates for the period to date.

Council Tax

The collection rate for Council Tax at the end of the financial year 2009/10 is 96.06% against a target of 96.5% (down 0.44%). Compared with the collection rate for the previous year when the collection rate was 96.24% (down 0.12%).

The economic downturn faced in 2008/09 has affected the ability to increase collection rates in 2009/10 as council tax payers are still paying previous years arrears and delaying current year payments. There can be little doubt that this has affected the ability to improve upon the previous years collections although proactive recovery actions are being taken by the recovery team the impact of these has not been as effective as anticipated. An end to end review of the recovery process and the methods used is being undertaken in 2010/11 to implement improvements in collection. This will be undertaken in conjunction with the move to the new structure for the service.

Business Rates

The collection rate for Business Rates at the end of the financial year 2009/10 is 95.7%. This is 2.5% down on the target and 1.2% down on the previous year. The impact of the changes in legislation introduced on 1 April 2008 that introduced charges for previously exempt properties are still having an impact as organisations and individuals owning these properties in many cases do not have the financial resources to pay the charge and in the current economic climate are unable to find a tenant for the property. This change increased the overall amount that needed to be collected by some £8m on accounts where it was always known there would be significant problems with collection. In addition to this the continuing economic situation is undoubtedly continuing to have a direct impact on the level of business rates collected.

Table 7 : Council Tax Collection

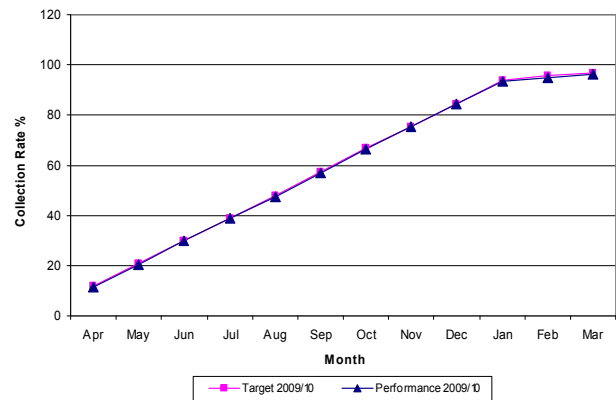
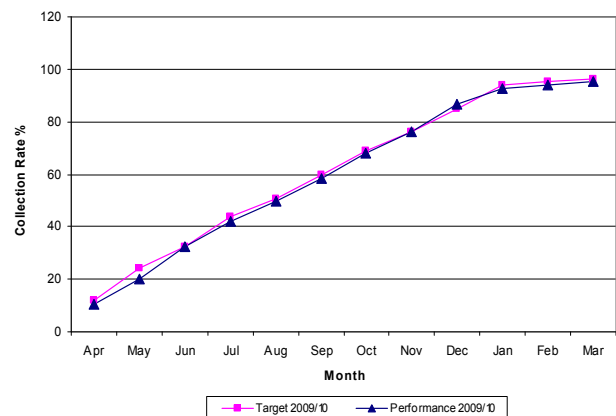


Table 8 : Business Rates Collection



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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer:	Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer, Democratic Services	Tel. 01733 452447
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UPDATE - PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Directors	
1. That Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to full Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to full Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions in accordance with Standing Order 13 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 – 'to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvements programmes to deliver excellent services'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

4.1 Petition for CCTV camera(s) to be installed on a permanent basis within Century Square, Millfield, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 3FR:

This petition was presented to full Council on 26 July 2010 by Councillor Peach.

The Council's Resilience and Risk Services Manager responded on 2 September following information gathered from Safer Peterborough Partnership and the relevant Neighbourhood Team advising that incidents reported were mainly of anti-social behaviour and due to their nature, the cost of installing, maintaining and monitoring a CCTV system for Century Square could not be justified (2 cameras would be needed for this operation). Due to the nature of the offences, it was also not certain that CCTV would be an effective deterrent.

4.2 Petition opposing change in route to the number 5 bus through Bluebell Avenue:

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Swift.

The Council's Head of Planning Transport and Engineering responded to Councillor Swift and all signatories on the petition by letter dated 10 August advising that as the service is operated by a private company, Stagecoach, the Council is limited to what it can do regarding the operating routes. Stagecoach would have had approval to use the altered route from the Area Traffic Office at least 56 days in advance but there was no statutory requirement to advise residents of bus service changes. Speed checks and vehicle monitoring would be arranged on this route. All of the Stagecoach buses run on Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel including the additive Envirox to further reduce pollution. All city bus routes would be gritted in the winter times. Concerns over the stopping of buses at non-marked bus stops would be raised with Stagecoach.

4.3 Petition for Pavement Resurfacing in Dudley Avenue and Rockingham Grove

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Sandford.

The Council's Highway Maintenance Team Manager responded to Councillor Sandford on 4 August and reiterated information sent to Councillor Sandford in April this year that inspections had been carried out and the pavements were not deemed to be in need of repair and any cracks or other defects were not serious enough to warrant major works in the foreseeable future. The Highway Maintenance Team Manager advised that any maintenance requests were assessed and considered alongside other requests across the city in order to identify and prioritise sites in a fair and measured way.

A further email was sent to Councillor Sandford on 12 August stating that a further inspection had been carried out on 10 August where some cracked slabs had been marked for repair due to the possibility of developing into a trip hazard and an order was raised with the contractor to resolve this.

4.4 Petition for refusal of planning application reference 10/00328/FUL at 157-161 Fletton Avenue

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Walsh.

The council's Group Manager Planning Services responded to the lead signatory on the petition and Cllr Walsh advising that the considerations of the signatories would be taken into account when a decision was made on the application. The letter also advised that most planning decisions were taken by officers and not a formal meeting of the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee.

The Planning and Environmental Protection committee meeting of 7 September considered this application and subsequently, the planning application was approved by the committee.

4.5 Petition opposing introduction of residents' parking permits in Gloucester Road and St Johns Road

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Serluca.

A public meeting was held between officers, residents and ward councillors on 25 August. The Zonal parking scheme as proposed has not received sufficient support to proceed. A refund will be provided upon request to all applicants. An alternative scheme is being considered.

4.6 Petition opposing introduction of residents' parking permits in Queens Road and Fairfield Road

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Serluca.

A public meeting was held between officers, residents and ward councillors on 25 August. The Zonal parking scheme as proposed has not received sufficient support to proceed. A refund will be provided upon request to all applicants. An alternative scheme is being considered.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Standing Orders require that Council receive a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petitions presented in this report have been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Any alternative options would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Council.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

- 8.1 Petitions presented to full Council and responses from officers.

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